- **Byline Inquirer** Ibang klaseng pag-iipon: Sperm-banking sa 'Pinas! Ngayong alas-8 ng gabi, sa ABC
- **Motoring / C1** Aspiring racers dream of the 'F' word
- **News / A2** RP policy on sending troops to Iraq still vague
- **Metro / A15** Parricide rap vs Harrison mall heir dropped
- **Entertainment / A23** Carmina: Ara Mina and I can't be friends

Gloria tells men: Kiss me not

NO KISSING SCENE, PLEASE!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

BESO-BESO bandits, beware.

This was President Macapagal-Arroyo's chilly message to overzealous male fans and supporters yearning for so much as a peck on her cheek.

GLORIA/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Aussie solon slams own gov't for role as US sheriff

CANBERRA, Australia—Australia has exhausted its goodwill in Southeast Asia through a series of strategic blunders and by adopting the role of US regional sheriff, a senior opposition Labor Party lawmaker said Wednesday.

In his first major speech since taking responsibility for Labor's defense policy, Kim

AUSSIE/ A5

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, August 12, 2004 ★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 246 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Reds put off peace talks

Negotiator blames US' listing of CPP as terrorists

By Volt Contreras
and Christian V. Esguerra

AS THE National Democratic Front had warned, Washington's renewed listing of the Communist Party of the Philippines as a foreign terrorist organization snagged the scheduled resumption of peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF.

Chief NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni yesterday told the INQUIRER by phone that his panel had called for the postponement of the talks set on Aug. 24-30 in Oslo because of the renewed terror tag on the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"It's a direct result [of the renewal]," Jalandoni said in reference to the postponement.

The Netherlands-based Jalandoni is in town for a series of engagements.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said he was surprised by the bad news that he got straight from Jalandoni over lunch yesterday. But he described the NDF stance as "premature and presumptuous."

According to Bello, the NDF panel unilaterally postponed the "most crucial" round in the negotiations and indicated that the resumption should be scheduled in September.

"They said they wanted to give the government panel enough time to comply with the commitments it made during talks held in Oslo on June 22-24," Bello told the INQUIRER.

"[But] I don't think there is any basis for

REDS PUT OFF/ A6

HERE'S looking at you, kid. With eyes wide open Clarence (left)seems to be sizing up the boy in the next bed to the delight of an admiring party of four at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York: From left, Spencer Forman, Montefiore president; Dr. James Goodrich, neurosurgeon and head of the surgical team that separated the twins; their mother Arlene Aguirre; Dr. James Staffenberg, plastic surgeon. AP

Twins see each other for first time face to face

NEW YORK—"Carl, where's your brother? Clarence, where's your brother?"

On Tuesday, an excited Arlene Aguirre was coaxing her 2-year-old twin sons to look at one another because, finally, they can. And they did, for a few times and only fleetingly, since they were still drowsy from sedation and drifting in and out of sleep.

When awake, the boys seemed happiest when looking at their mother—and the television set.

Carl and Clarence were joined at the top of their heads until they were separated last week in a 17-hour operation at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Dr. David Staffenberg, the twins' plastic surgeon, took up Arlene's cause. "Clarence, look at your brother," he said. Nothing happened. He tried again. Still nothing. "He never listens," the surgeon jested.

The little patients had been taken off ventilators and were breathing on their own. They were also off painkillers, and had been propped into semi-sitting positions in side-by-side beds in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Their beds were slightly moved to

TWINS/ A4

Kampi meets in HK 'to plot De Venecia ouster'

By Cynthia D. Balana

AT LEAST 70 stalwarts of the revived Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) met in Hong Kong over the weekend to allegedly plot the ouster of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. The Speaker was described as "uncooperative" with Malacañang, according to a source who was able to talk to some of the participants.

Kampi is the political party that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself formed when she ran for vice president in 1998.

The alleged plot to oust De Venecia comes at a time when various parties comprising the administration coalition in the House of Representatives are fighting for committee chairmanships. "You see, the Speaker is his own man. You cannot just dictate on him. That is what they do not like in him," the source said.

When sought for comment, De Venecia said he did not believe any coup attempt against him.

"It's not true. Kampi does not have 70 members in the House of Representatives. The record shows that there are only 25 of them in the House," he said.

The source said that those present in Hong Kong were not just congressmen but also other Kampi members, including those in its think tank.

KAMPI/ A6

LAWYER Edilwasif Baddiri, 28, goes to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government to earn a master's in Public Administration.

Texters reject tax on telecoms

By Norman Bordadora,
Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ANTITAX advocacy group Txt Power yesterday rejected the proposal of the Legislative Economic Development Advisory Council to impose a franchise tax on telecommunication firms instead of taxing text messages, saying that the companies will just pass on the franchise tax to cell phone users.

"Consumers are always at the bad end of taxation on utilities as these new taxes are just passed on to us. The telecommunication companies can always find creative ways of reducing services or increasing costs to recover these new taxes, which raise the cost of using mobiles," Txt Power convenor Trixie Concepcion said.

Concepcion said that while consumers ended up paying for these taxes companies were retaining their profits. Telecom firms said on Tuesday that they would just pass on to the cell phone users any additional tax to

TEXTERS/ A4

JOB OPORTUNITIES FOR JOBLESS
MADAM PRESIDENT PLS. ALLOW US TO WORK IN IRAQ... ASAP! THIS IS FOR OUR FAMILY'S FUTURE!
MATAGAL NA KAMING NAGHINTAY
MADAM PRES. We are Livi Sacrific

LET NOLI do it. Vice President Noli de Castro will have his hands full with these Filipinos desperately seeking jobs in Iraq and the lifting of the existing ban imposed following the kidnapping of Angelo de la Cruz. They hold a rally in Makati on Wednesday to make their point loud and clear.

GMA names De Castro OFW czar

HE GAVE up one post and got three in return.

Weeks after naming Vice President Noli de Castro as her cochair in the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday added new emblems to his escutcheon.

She appointed him presidential adviser on overseas foreign workers (OFW), putting the former radio broadcaster in charge of 7-8 million overseas Filipino workers, many in menial or hazardous jobs.

At her weekly Pulong Bayan held at the Ford factory in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Ms Arroyo announced that De Castro would take over the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Critics dismissed De Castro's appointments as part of a "payback" for the decision of the former ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. talent and senator to drop his own presidential ambitions and agree to be Ms Arroyo's run-

GMA/ A5

Buy-back of used SIM cards widespread

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC—While mobile phone users are cyber-rallying against the proposed taxes on text messages, another residual business in the multibillion-peso telecommunications industry is flourishing—the "buy-back" of cell phone SIMs by the country's biggest mobile phone companies.

Officials of Smart and Globe, the two biggest cell phone firms, denied that their companies were buying back old and rejected SIM cards. They said they were themselves wondering where the buyers of these SIM cards are taking them or doing with them.

A source said that in the feverish race to build up subscriber base, the cell phone giants could be contracting agencies to buy back even broken SIMs and replacing these with new SIM cards that could be counted as new subscribers.

A SIM buyer suggested that it

BUY-BACK/ A4

1st Tausug admitted to Harvard

By Noralyn Mustafa
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—A young lawyer from this province is assured a place of honor among the Tausug—and the nation.

Edilwasif Baddiri, 28, is on his way to Harvard University to earn a master's degree in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He holds the distinction of being the first full-blooded Tausug to gain admission to the highly competitive

FIRST TAUSUG/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers becoming more frequent over the Western Luzon and Western Visayas. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/12/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

Text Feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Policy on RP troops to Iraq hazy

By Jerome Aning

THESE DAYS, it depends on whom you are talking to if you want to have an idea about what the Philippine policy is toward Iraq.

A day after Ariel Abadilla, assistant foreign secretary for American affairs, said that the Philippines was open to sending a humanitarian contingent to Iraq under UN auspices, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert shot down the statement.

But Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita has his own thoughts. He says the idea of redeploying Filipino troops to that embattled country is not a closed option.

Abadilla set off the confusion when he told reporters on Tuesday that "we are open to sending a humanitarian contingent to Iraq" as long as it is under the aegis of the United Nations.

"I was misquoted," Abadilla said yesterday.

"This is a policy decision still being studied by the policy makers in government," he said on ANC television. "We do not close doors on options that are available. It may happen, but at this point in time, we don't have any decision to send troops back to Iraq."

Yesterday, Albert categorically said sending a new contingent to Iraq was not on the planning boards.

"The possibility of sending another humanitarian contingent to Iraq is not being contemplated," she said. "There are no discussions on this matter at policy levels or with other countries."

Ermita, speaking to another group of reporters, said something else.

"If there is a call from the United Nations, I think it depends on us to respond to that positively," he said.

More confusion

Ermita also said: "Our future actions shall be guided by UN resolutions...We are not bound or we have not totally closed the idea of sending troops should the situation call for it, depending on our response to the UN resolution."

Far from clarifying the apparent confusion, Malacañang may have added to it.

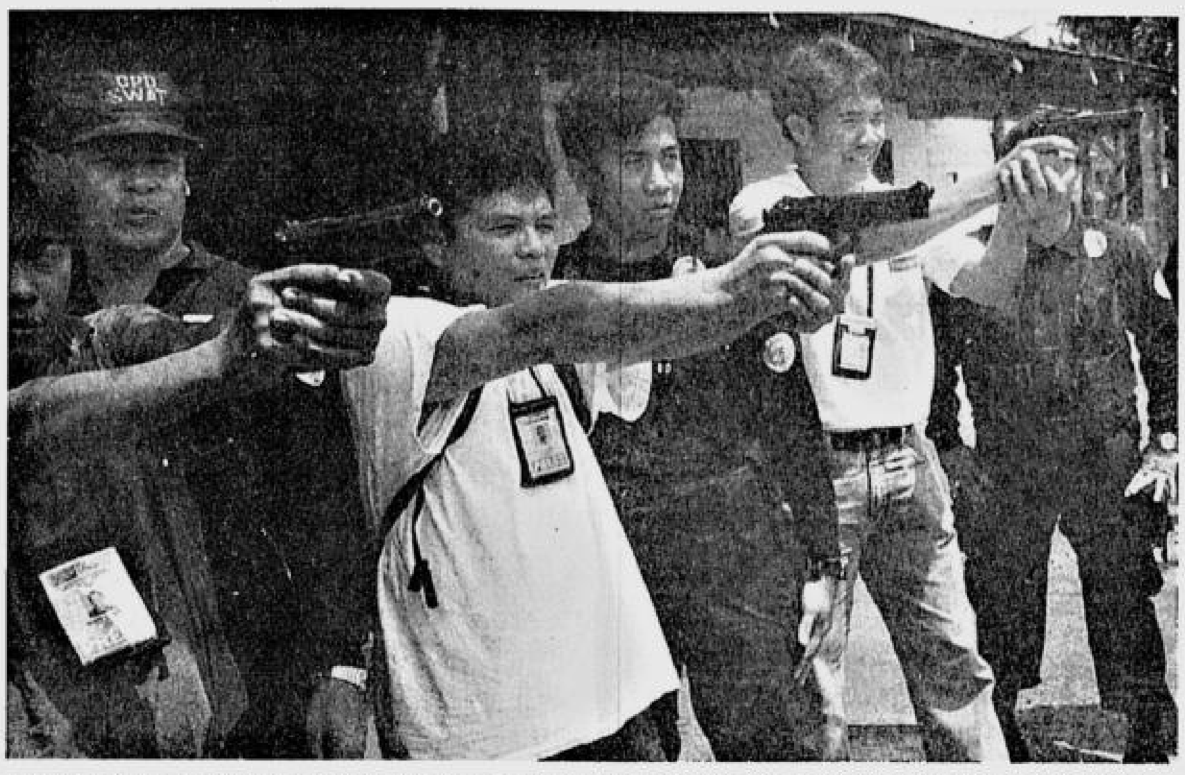
"As a matter of principle, we are willing to help in rebuilding Iraq and in restoring democracy, but it is still too early in the day to discuss details," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

He added: "We have to be assured of fool-proof safety measures for our workers. We have to see a popularly elected Iraq government in place. There will be proper time to make decisions. We will cross the bridge when we get there."

Under the Philippine chairmanship, the UN Security Council last June passed a resolution pledging international assistance to Iraqi reconstruction and delineating the role of a US-led multinational force in keeping the peace in that country.

'Friendly militias'

DFA spokesman Gilberto Asuque was at least clear about one thing. He said the possibility of sending another Filipino contingent to Iraq was not discussed in talks last Monday between Albert and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone. *With Alcuin Papa, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, AFP*



POLICE marksmen teach mediamen how to use guns at a shooting range inside Camp Karingal In Quezon City. Media practitioners may be allowed to carry their own firearms if there are threats to their lives.

JOAN BONDOC

Witness lack stymies investigators

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE KILLING of three newsmen in a span of four weeks might just add to the growing list of unsolved murders of journalists.

The reason: a lack of witnesses.

The Philippine National Police yesterday admitted that investigators were far from solving the murder of Roger Mariano, who was killed in Ilocos Norte on July 3, and Arnel Manalo, who was slain in Batangas on Aug. 4.

There's also no significant development in the case of Jonathan Abayon, the radio reporter who was allegedly shot by a bodyguard of boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, the PNP spokesperson, said the bodyguard suspect, William Bael, is nowhere to be found.

Goltiao said the lack of witnesses was the main reason why the PNP was able to "solve" only 14 out of 51 cases of slain journalists recorded since 1984.

But why don't witnesses refuse to surface?

Besides the usual fear of retaliation, some witnesses simply have no sympathy for some of the slain journalists owing to the victims' "shady backgrounds," according to a top police official who refused to be named.

"We have to accept the fact that not all journalists are clean. There are really those engaged in many extra-curricular activities and it is for this involvement that they are harmed," Goltiao said.

Goltiao said a number of the 51 journalists slain in the past 20 years were killed, not for performing the duties of their profession, but for personal reasons.

Miriam wants Reghis probed

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Miriam Defensor Santiago is back in fighting form against her bitter rival, former President Ramos, who beat her in the 1992 presidential contest by a hairline.

Santiago yesterday trained her guns on developer Reghis Romero who, she said, benefited from what "has to be the most lopsided contract in Philippine history."

She was referring to the joint venture agreement that Romero and his company, R2 Builders, concluded with the National Housing Authority for the conversion of the Smokey Mountain dump site into a low-cost housing complex and industrial/commercial site. The contract was made in March 1993 during the Ramos adminsitration.

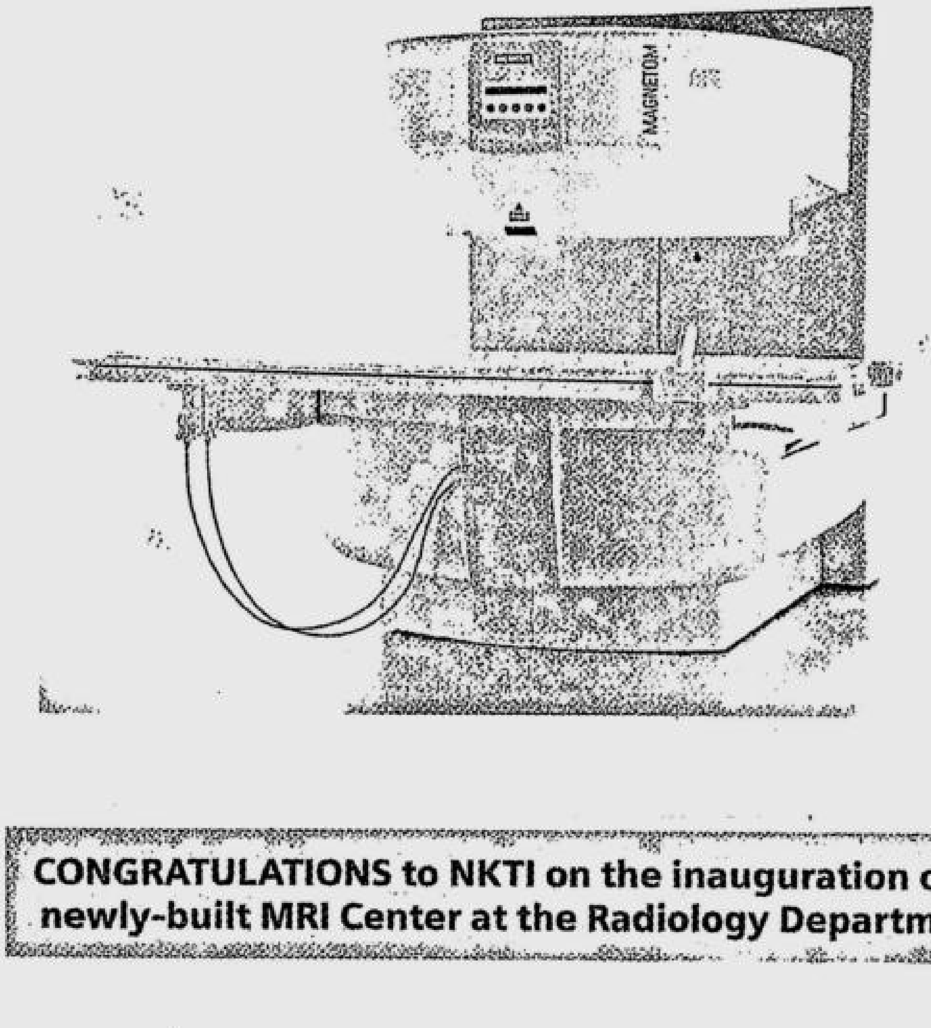
In a privilege speech titled "Anak ng Amari (Child of Amari)," Santiago asked the Senate to inquire into "the criminal and civil liabilities" of Romero as she noted that the transfer to his company of what was considered to be public lands were "unconstitutional, illegal, invalid and criminal."

She described the Romero contract as "even worse" than that involving the Philippine Estates Authority and Amari in 1995.

"Where in the world can you find a government that gives a huge amount of money to a developer for the purpose of reclaiming land, and then gives the reclaimed land to the developer?" Santiago asked.

SIEMENS
medical

The new MAGNETOM Concerto MRI system has just made patient care and comfort better at the
National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI).



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CONGRATULATIONS to NKTI on the inauguration of its newly-built MRI Center at the Radiology Department!

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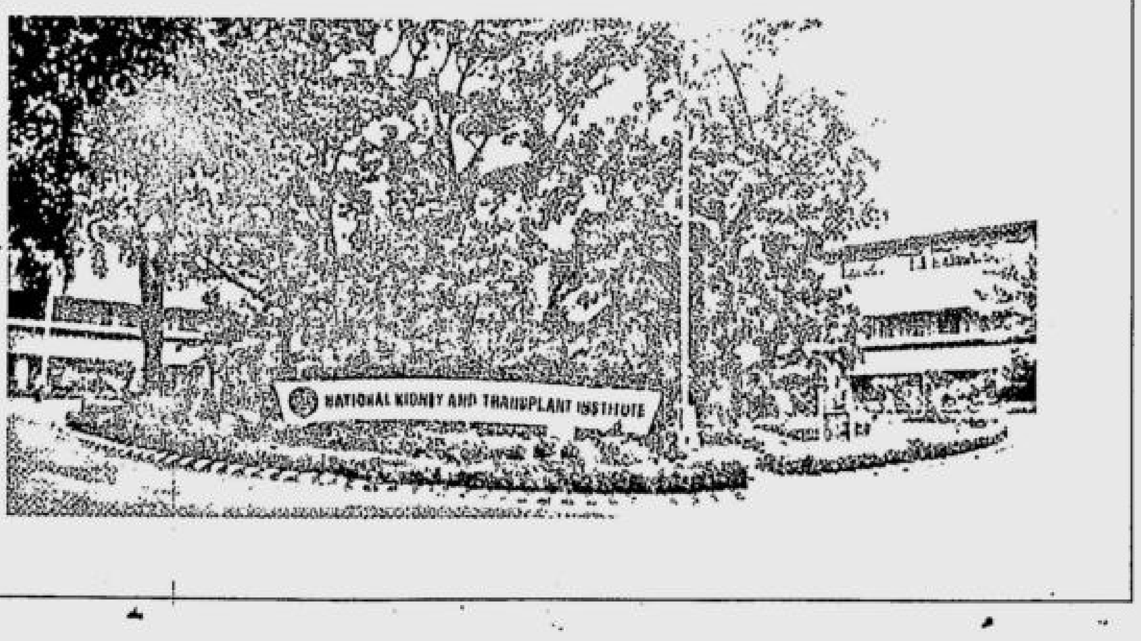

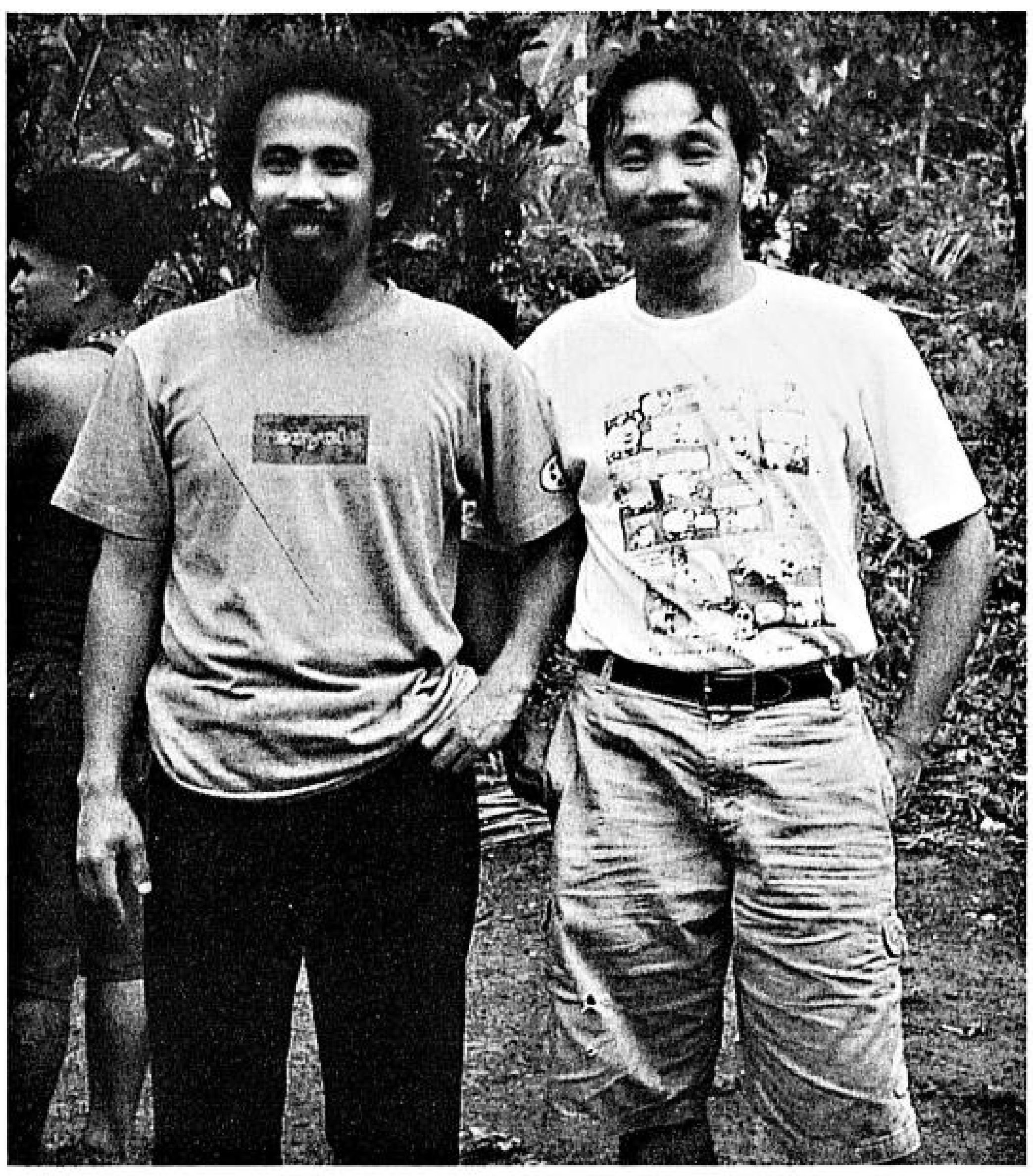

ARMY LT. Ronaldo Fidelino (left) poses with INQUIRER correspondent Juan Escandor Jr. who interviewed the NPA captives in the Bicol jungles last week.

Solons to be tested for drugs this month

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives and their staff will undergo random drug testing starting this month, the Dangerous Drugs Board said yesterday.

The testing is part of a DDB program to make government work places free of drugs, said assistant secretary Rommel Garcia, the DDB's deputy executive director.

The House drug testing project will cost P300,000.

Garcia said anyone of the 3,500 staff and members of the House found positive for occasional drug use would be asked to go through counseling. Those found to be already addicted will be sent to rehabilitation centers.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday sought the construction of more jails and additional rehabilitation centers for the rising number of arrested drug dealers and addicts requiring treatment.

Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido Jr., the PDEA director general, said more jails would be needed because of the continuing crackdown on drug trafficking.

From July 2002 to date, there have been more than 11,500 anti-drug operations which resulted in the arrest of almost 14,500 people, including 8,000 users, 6,200 pushers, eight marijuana cultivators and 26 financiers, according to Avenida..

More than 9,500 drug cases have also been filed, he said.

The PDEA also asked the Dangerous Drugs Board to change the category of three dangerous chemicals—ephedrine, ketamine and thionyl chloride— from controlled substances into dangerous drugs.

Avenido said ketamine, a tranquilizer used with animals, is becoming popular with young people and has even overtaken "Ecstasy," the amphetamine-type stimulant, as the drug of choice in places like Hong Kong.

He said thionyl chloride, although not included in the list of substances under international control, is being used in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu.

"The major difficulty encountered during the filing of cases is the absence of a provision in RA 9165 (the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002) prohibiting the possession of these chemicals," Avenido said.

He said the change of classification would plug loopholes in the law and strengthen the capability of drug enforcers to control the flow of these substances to illegitimate users.

Meanwhile, a study commissioned by the International Labor Organization in 2000 said "a significant proportion" of children from poor communities are involved in the illegal drug trade. *Nelson Forte Flores and Martin P. Marfil*

EO creates new post for media czar

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has created a new and influential Cabinet post—Communications Director—who would take over the operations of Malacañang's entire media and information department.

The President yesterday signed Executive Order No. 348 creating the Office of the Communications Director but did not reveal her handpicked media czar.

Among those rumored to take the post are ABS-CBN executive and former Estrada Press Secretary Ricardo Puno and K-4 campaign manager Cerge Remonde.

The media czar shall oversee the massive reorganization of the President's media and information units—the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Correspondence Office, Speech Writers Group, Communications Research Group, and the government-owned media group (Journal Publications, RPN-9, NBN-4, and IBC-13)—to ensure that all her policies, programs and achievements are quickly and clearly disseminated to the public.

Funds for OCD will initially come from the OPS. It will later have its own allocation in the coming years' budgets.

Under the reorganization plan, the presidential spokesperson will assume the functions of the Press Secretary and will be tasked to control the Radio-TV Malacañang (RTVM) and the News Information Bureau (NIB); while the National Printing Office and the APO Production Unit will be transferred to the PIA. Press Secretary Milton Alingod and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye did not respond to the INQUIRER's calls.

The state-owned publishing and broadcasting outfits would be placed under the supervision of a Group Head for Government Mass Media along with the Bureau of Broadcast Services and Bureau of Communication Services. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

NEWSBRIEFS

LGUs reined on road users tax

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered all local government units (LGUs) to immediately stop collecting road users tax on national roads within their jurisdiction.

In a Pulong Bayan at Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Ms Arroyo dared the LGUs to challenge her order in court in order to determine finally whether mayors could collect taxes for the use of national roads. The President said she was exasperated by the continuous complaints from businessmen whose delivery trucks were being harassed by LGU agents demanding road users tax for the use of national roads. The President said only the national government was allowed to collect taxes for the use of national roads while LGUs should only collect fees for the use of secondary roads in their areas. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

DepEd pushes 'bridge program'

DESPITE Malacañang's lukewarm support, officials of the Department of Education are still bent on pursuing the controversial "bridge program" for elementary graduates of public schools. A pet project of Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, the program would require students to take a one-year refresher course in English, Mathematics and Science to better prepare them for the regular four-year high school curriculum.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo has not endorsed the bridge program. Instead, she wants a preschool year added to the 10-year basic education cycle. De Jesus has insisted that the bridge program is still a go since the DepEd has not received any memo to the contrary from Malacañang. The DepEd has set a second round of high school readiness test for public high school freshmen on Aug. 31. Those who would again score poorly in the test would be "strongly advised" to take the bridge program. ***Dona Z. Pazz-ibugan***

AFP gets P639M for modernization

THE modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday got a major boost when the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) turned over P639 million to the military for the lease of its former camps. AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Abaya and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the amount represents the 50 percent share of the AFP from the 61 percent gross proceeds generated by the BCDA from the lease of properties inside Fort Bonifacio from 1999 to June 2004. Abaya said the money would go to the P10.8 billion total fund of the AFP Modernization Program, a part of which was already used to purchase military equipment under the program. Among the leasees include a Japanese school, Ayala Land, a Shell gas station, the MGC New Live Christian Academy, the Victory Christian School, the International School, Lawton Parkway, Summit School and the British School. ***Alcuin Papa***

Fate of Army captives hangs in the balance

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The fate of two Army soldiers held captive by the communist New People's Army hangs in the balance as the Arroyo administration seemingly plays a "double-faced" approach in the negotiations for the release of Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño.

The rebels, who captured the two soldiers after an ambush of an Army patrol in a remote village in Camarines Sur, have made it a condition of their captives' release the suspension of offensive military operations in Camarines Sur and Albay.

On the one hand, the government downplays the negotiations for the release of Fidelino and Nemeño with the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, even as its estranged ally, the United States, renewed on Monday its listing of the CPP as a foreign terrorist group.

The NDF's chief negotiatiator Luis Jalandoni immediately responded with a warning that the move would have "a negative effect" on the impending reopening of the peace talks.

At the same time, the Palace seemingly ignores the continuing public declaration by top military officials that there will be no negotiation for the release of Fidelino and Nemeño. They said the military will continue operations to rescue Fidelino and Nemeño.

Malacañang has said it will await the recommendations of the defense department and the government's peace negotiating panel before making any recommendations.

NPA cadres revealed that the military has actually issued a written order of suspension of offensive military operations (Somo) in Camarines Sur and Albay though the order has not been followed. They said the military apparently wants to keep from the public the issuance of the Somo.

They said they learned that President Macapagal-Arroyo has given instructions for the negotiating panel to do away with the "rowdy media" and deliver the captive soldiers straight to the Palace.

The government's negotiating panel has demanded from the NDF that the media be kept away from following the developments on the release. *With a report from Alcuin Papa and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PAGC chief leaves the way he came in

By Armand N. Nocum

IT TOOK less than half an hour for outgoing Presidential Anti-Graft Commission Chair Dario C. Rama to pack the few belongings he brought into the office that looks more spartan than that of a police station chief.

But PAGC employees said that in terms of integrity and professionalism, Rama, who was sworn in as Postmaster General on Tuesday, brought in so much more.

"He gave back pride to this office ... to public service. He will continue to be an inspiration to us," said one employee of the office that is tasked with going after grafters in government.

According to the agency's employees, Rama had been effective in steering the PAGC through its most productive years because he lives what he preaches.

Rama is known to be the only member of the Arroyo Cabinet to take a jeepney to work. He has refused the Palace's offer of a cellular phone for his use.

Rama, who comes from Mindanao, chose to rent a room, not an apartment, to live in while working in Manila.

He is also known to shun any kind of gift, even those given to decorate his sparsely furnished office. His office has a relatively empty table containing a name plate bearing his name and a book on US President Abraham Lincoln.

Other furniture pieces include a mono-bloc plastic chair and table, an empty cabinet, a Philippine flag and a picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

When he was appointed PAGC head two-and-a-half years ago, Rama brought only these items with him: two flower vases, an alarm clock, three mugs and a decorative platter.

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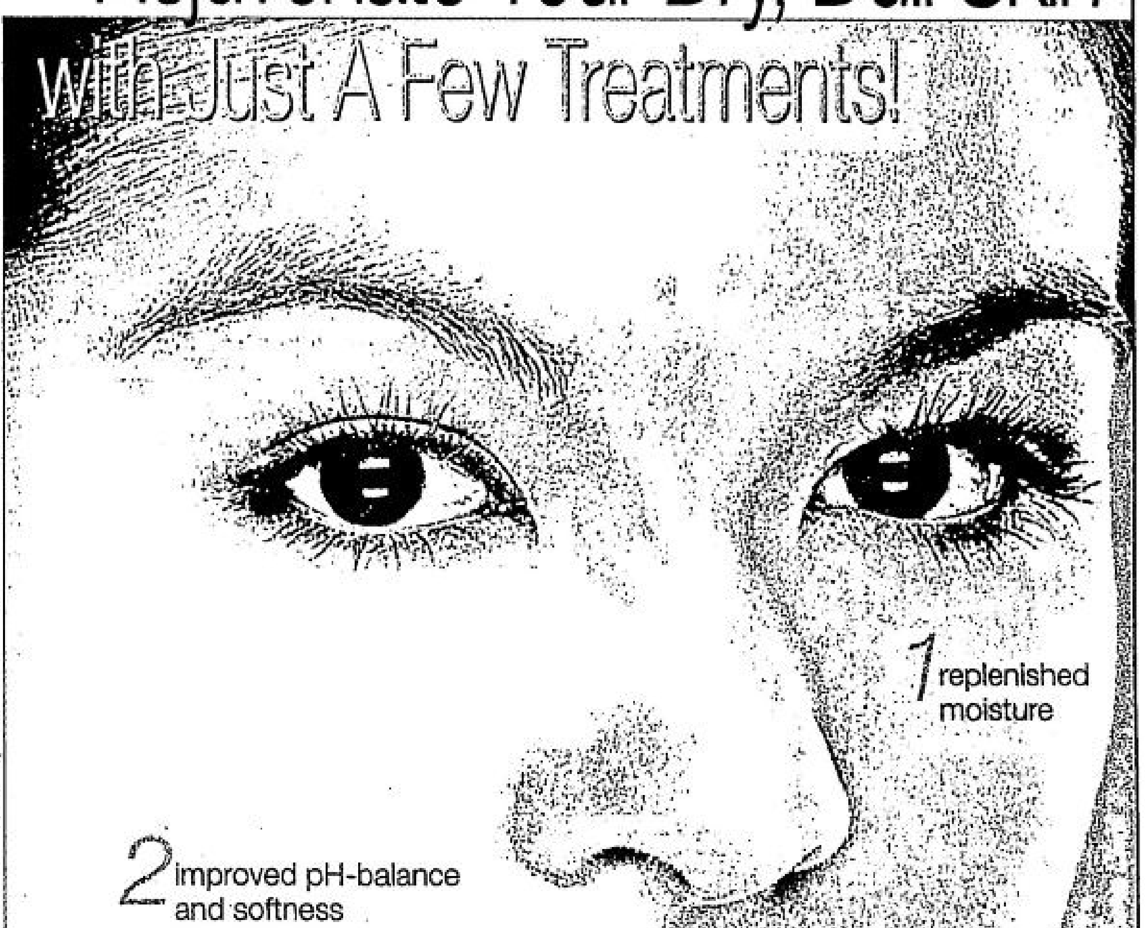
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Texters reject tax on telecoms

From page A1

be imposed on the industry.

Txt Power might be making a fuss over nothing as Malacañang reported that President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to impose a franchise tax on mobile phone service providers like Smart and Globe would actually benefit subscribers.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima told the INQUIRER that consumers would "actually be in a better position" with the franchise tax that would replace the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) that subscribers were paying each time they made a call or sent a text message.

Although Ledac has yet to finalize the terms of the new tax on the cash-rich telecommunication firms, the franchise tax is likely to be pegged at 7 percent in order to yield at least P7 billion from the estimated P100 billion in annual revenues of the top two cellular phone companies.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the projected P7-billion revenue from the franchise tax would be substantially higher than the P2.3 billion in annual VAT payments made by providers.

Don't penalize new tech

While the companies collect a 10-percent VAT from customers, they actually pay only a 2.3-percent VAT to the government after deducting the VAT payments they make on their multibillion-dollar imports of equipment, according to Salceda.

But Salceda argued that the government would be better off maintaining the status quo because telecommunication firms would start paying the full 10-percent VAT to the government because the tax deductions for their investment programs would have lapsed or have been used up by yearend.

He said the telecommunication firms would pay no less than P9 billion in VAT by next year if the current tax structure was maintained.

Salceda said he did not agree with the plan to impose a franchise tax on the deregulated telecommunication industry because it would mean penalizing it for bringing in new technology and for building a vibrant market.

He said a franchise tax would only make it harder for companies other than the Big Three (Smart, Globe and Talk N' Text) to survive.

Cebu texters

Although Malacañang has dropped its plan to tax text messaging, a new group has been formed in Cebu to oppose the plan.

The Association of Concerned Texters (ACT), a group of 50 mobile phone subscribers, has vowed to send protest messages to Ms Arroyo. It has urged cell phone users to do the same.

"We are a group of concerned people who choose to be involved in community service. We want to be heard by the government by using this technology," ACT spokesperson Helen Ang said.

ACT president Susan Gesulga said the group had been sending protest messages since last week, through the publicly listed cellular phone numbers of Ms Arroyo—09178398463, 09198984621 and 09198984622.

Affect info of public concern

Ang said the proposed tax measure would affect their advocacy in disseminating information, especially on issues of public concern.

The "text-power" of its members had played a vital role in urging other mobile phone subscribers to join the rally in Cebu last year in support of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. amid the impeachment complaint filed against him.

In the Senate, senators crossed party lines yesterday in expressing opposition to any move to pass on to cell phone users the proposed franchise tax on telecom firms.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara and administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago urged Ms Arroyo to ensure that any tax measure imposed on telecom firms would not be passed on to the 28 million subscribers in the country.

"Let us not tax the users because the users are mainly from the lower class and students. We should be taxing the companies because they are making fabulous incomes," Angara said.

Santiago said the public was already suffering due to increasing costs of basic commodities brought about by the series of oil price hikes.

"Therefore, it would be highly oppressive now if we let the people carry this additional burden while big telecom firms are earning billions," she said.

Santiago said in an interview that if it could not be done, then "at least to reduce it to the minimum."

Senate President Franklin Drilon also wanted the government to be "cautious" in implementing new taxes.

Drilon recognized that lawmakers and the public in general had "divergent views" on how to do it.

No need for franchise tax

"There is need to raise revenues, but how to raise these revenues is again a matter of divergent views," he said.

Fellow administration Sen. Ralph Recto pointed out that a new tax on telecom firms would not be necessary because the Board of Investments' incentives to Smart and Globe were set to expire this year.

"So next year, we expect these two companies to pay about P10 billion in additional revenue next year. So that is an incremental revenue because their incentives will expire this year. Are the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Department of Finance (DOF) aware of that?" Recto said.

Tax terrorists

Sen. Joker Arroyo on Tuesday called members of the Cabinet pushing for tax measures "tax terrorists."

Despite the name calling, the President came to the defense of her economic managers. "Offensive labeling is unfair and won't do us any good," said the Ms Arroyo who commended her Cabinet "for working day and night to find solutions to the problems we are facing."

She said that while the government had been open to debates, "these should no be occasions for bickering, grandstanding or labeling."

The President urged critics of her tax measures—from the P2 per liter oil tax to the franchise tax on telecommunication firms—to stick to "reasoned and principled discussion."

The other tax measures being pushed by the government are the shift to a gross income tax system, repeal of the value-added tax system, indexation of sin taxes, rationalization of fiscal incentives, tax amnesty and adoption of a performance-driven system for revenue-collection agencies. *With reports from Bernadette A. Parco and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

AND the winner of a Sony color TV is Mellany Niebla, a high school teacher who sent in the entry adjudged the best "fearless view" last week in InqTV's Tanong ng Bayan SMS promo. Niebla is congratulated by INQUIRER Associate Editor Abel Ulanday and INQTV reporter Christine Ong. Catch the INQUIRER on TV every Thursday, 8 p.m. on ABC and get a chance to win a TV set.

Buy-back of used SIM cards widespread

From page A1

could be the metallic portion of the SIM that interested the financiers of the buy-back scheme.

Reluctant to give information, the buyers told the INQUIRER they are paid P250 fee for every 100 pieces of SIM cards that they buy.

They also refuse to say who finances the scheme or where the SIMs are taken.

The SIM, or the subscriber identification module, is a plastic chip inserted into a cellular phone which acts as its brain. It carries a 13-digit mobile phone number assigned by a cellular phone company and, depending on its memory capacity, can store phone numbers, messages and other data.

Widespread

The buy-back trade in SIM cards has apparently become widespread. In just about every corner of Tarlac's commercial district and in other major cities in the country, SIM card buyers were offering P15 to P20 for every unusable SIM.

A buyer interviewed by the INQUIRER said they did not know exactly know where the SIMs were taken but they were told that Smart and Globe were buying these back so the old numbers retrieved through the rejected SIM could be be re-used as these companies were supposedly running out of numbers.

In fact, the buyers will not buy the SIM if the company logo had been defaced.

Globe and Smart officials denied that the SIM cards are eventually sold back to their firms.

Can't be recycled

"SIM cards cannot be recycled. So we have no use for these secondhand SIMs. They are not sold to us nor do we buy them," said Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez.

Jones Campos, Globe's vice president for corporate and media affairs, said Globe was not involved in the SIM buy-back scheme.

Ramon Isberto, Smart's head of corporate affairs, said he was "confused and perplexed" as to what those groups that are buying back the SIMs do with the cards.

"It doesn't make sense for us to buy the SIM cards. We are not involved with that at all," said Isberto.

Isberto said there would be no value-added for Smart to buy the unused SIMs back. He said expired numbers are automatically deleted from the home locator register of Smart.

"We're really at a loss why these SIMs are bought. The only ones that can be used again are those disabled SIMs because of the PUK (pin unlocking key)," Isberto said.

PUK is used to unlock a blocked SIM which happens when a wrong personal identification number (PIN) is keyed in. Usually, every pre-paid SIM carries in its pack a subscriber secret number that contains two sets of PUK.

A PIN is a security number encoded in the SIM but can be replaced by the subscriber. Other than this, and the SIM's destruction, a SIM would be useless when a pre-paid SIM expires or has gone beyond a company's allowable time to have a zero balance.

Gonzalez explained that what Globe and its competitors do was to offer a "SIM swap" in which subscribers from the competitor are enticed to surrender their active SIM cards in exchange for a Globe or a Smart card.

Globe has 10.5 million users as of end-June against Smart's 16.1 million.

Gold?

While a pawnshop appraiser here could not tell exactly if there is gold in the SIM card, an electronic engineer who has been in the telecommunications business for a long time confirmed that what shields the microchip inside a SIM card is the hard plastic on top and the metallic back made of copper and gold.

In a country with about 28 million cellular phone users and with the roundabout SIM swap marketing strategy of the cell phone companies, scraping copper and gold dust from each SIM card could conceivably fetch quite a sum of money.

According to the pawnshop appraiser, the lowest grade of gold sells at P200 per gram.

Purchases

On a lucky day, a buyer gets about 20 pieces of Globe and Touch Mobile SIMs combined and about 50 pieces of Smart and Talk N' Text SIMs.

Another buyer said her purchases usually come from SIM swaps.

"After the free load is consumed, they sell the SIM," she said. *With a report from Clarissa S. Batino*

PRIDE AND JOY: Mother Arlene and grandmother Evelyn fuss over Clarence six days after his separation from his twin Carl. The twins are now off sedation and pain killers, breathing on their own and propped up into semi-sitting positions.

AP

Twins see each other for first time face to face

From page A1

make it easier for the boys to see each other. The first time Clarence "appeared to look" at his brother, Carl was snoozing.

Until then, the twins had seen each other's faces only in mirrors and photographs.

Exceeding expectations

Staffenberg had helped separate the boys in four major operations conducted over 11 months.

"We really expected them to do well, but they've exceeded our best expectations," the surgeon said. "This is by far the earliest time that babies [in this condition] have been able to come off the ventilator. They have been moving along at light speed."

The boys' pediatrician, Dr. Robert Marion, agreed: "It's unbelievable. They're doing better than almost any kid who's had craniofacial surgery, let alone this complex [procedure]."

With the boys sitting up a bit, Marion said, they might also be eating solid food starting today or tomorrow.

Montefiore spokesperson Steve Osborne said a collection of fluid on Carl's brain, mentioned at a news conference on Monday by neurosurgeon Dr. James Goodrich, head of the surgical team, had not become serious.

"From a neurological point of view we have seen no deficit in either of these kids," Goodrich had said, but added that it would be two to three weeks "before I really know things are well healed up and the issues that we're worried about post-operatively have cleared." *AP*

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, in a story on Page A5, "Press/takes up/runaway/ growth," the surname of former Health Undersecretary Mario Taguiwalo was wrongly spelled. It's Taguiwalo, not Taguiwais.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

First Tausug admitted to Harvard

From page A1

MPA program, according to the screening panel at Harvard.

He will begin his studies next month on a two-year Fulbright student grant sponsored by the US Department of State, the Institute of International Education and the Philippine-American Educational Foundation.

His study objectives at the university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, are people empowerment, youth development, sustainable economic development, conflict management and democratization of the political process.

Baddiri graduated in 1996 in 11th place (with honors) from the College of Law of the Ateneo de Manila University, where he also earned his bachelor's degree in political science.

He landed in the 25th place in the bar exams. His thesis, adjudged third best and titled "Islam and the 1987 Philippine Constitution: An Issue on the Practice of Religion," was published in the Ateneo Law Journal.

Active on campus

As a student, Baddiri was an active member of campus organizations. He was a staff writer of El Ponente, the official publication of the AdMU College of Law; an intern at the Ateneo Human Rights Center; and a volunteer of the school's Central Bar Operation, among others.

He continued his involvement in various groups after graduation, serving as president of the Young Muslim Professionals in the Metro; spokesperson and founding member of the Bangsamoro Sulu Youth Movement; co-convenor and founding member of the Bangsamoro Consultative Assembly; and co-convenor of the Metro Manila Muslim Youth Leaders' Congress.

On native soil

He is also a counselor and director of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, legal counsel and director of the Philippine Red Cross, program officer of the Legal Aid Program of the First Gentleman, and adviser of the Young Moro Organization.

Baddiri returned to Zamboanga City, where he grew up, and taught the Philippine Constitution at his old high school at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University. At the same time, he worked as a legal assistant in the Regional Trial Court and wrote a twice-weekly column in a local newspaper, Zamboanga Today.

Despite lucrative offers for him to join prestigious law firms, Baddiri chose to serve his people.

In 2001 he ran for a seat in the municipal council of his hometown, Indanan, and topped the election. He was voted president of the Sulu municipal councilors' league as well, which earned him a seat in the provincial board.

Organizer, lecturer

As board member, Baddiri chaired the committee on laws and ordinances and authored, among others, the Tausug Customary Law, which has been published in booklet form, and the 2002 provincial revenue code.

He also organized youth leadership seminars in Sulu and delivered lectures on law and human rights in military camps in the province.

Baddiri ran for the same post in the May elections and is still contesting the fourth and last slot among a field of over 20 candidates in the first district.

Poll protest

He has appealed the decision of the Commission on Elections' provincial board of canvassers granting a petition for "correction of manifest error" in the computation of votes.

GMA names De Castro OFW czar

From page A1

ning mate in the May elections.

Many political analysts have described De Castro's decision as a major factor behind Ms Arroyo's victory over opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Noli's gain, someone else's loss

Ms Arroyo said De Castro would not only look after the plight of Filipinos working abroad but also the interest of their families in the country.

"It's a big job," she said.

De Castro's gain was other people's loss.

By naming De Castro as virtual "czar" of both OFW affairs and the government's antipoverty programs, Ms Arroyo in effect clipped the powers of her labor and social welfare secretaries.

The presidential moves also meant the transfer to De Castro's control of billions of pesos in funds for OFW protection and the antipoverty projects.

Sto. Tomas' job

Ms Arroyo said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas would concentrate on domestic labor issues.

Sto. Tomas had put Ms Arroyo in an embarrassing situation in July when she fed her with a wrong informaton on the supposed release of Filipino hostage Angelo de la Cruz from captivity by Iraqi gunmen.

As co-chair of the NAPC, De Castro would be involved in poverty alleviation programs, including those under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Ms Arroyo had previously appointed De Castro as DSWD secretary but he was forced to decline the post—after initially accepting it—owing to a loud outcry from civil society groups, which supported the retention of incumbent Secretary Corazon Soliman.

De Castro welcomed the new appointment.

'Poverty-buster'

"Another challenge in his career as a public servant," the Office of the Vice President said in a statement. It called De Castro a "poverty-buster."

The statement quoted De Castro as saying that "serving the OFWs and their families had always been a priority on his agenda."

"It is an honor to serve OFWs since they are considered the country's modern-day heroes," De Castro said in the statement.

The billions of dollars remitted home by overseas workers annually has helped prop up the economy down through the years. Last year, the remittances exceeded $7 billion.

De Castro said that although his new job entailed big responsibilities, he was confident he could handle the challenge, noting he had had previous dealings with OFWs.

Father of Balikbayan Law

The statement issued by his office said that De Castro, when he was a senator, authored and principally sponsored the 2002 Balikbayan Law, which provides for additional benefits and privileges to overseas workers through the so-called "Kabuhayan program."

The program is designed to make overseas workers economically self-reliant upon their return to the Philippines.

Aussie solon . . .

From page A1

Beazley also criticized Foreign Minister Alexander Downer for describing the Philippines as "marshmallows" for pulling troops out of Iraq early to save Filipino hostage, truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who was threatened with death.

Rebuild ties with Asians

Beazley told the National Press Club that a Labor government would have to rebuild Australia's relations with its Asian neighbors if it wins elections this year.

He said the present Australian government had hurt relations with Southeast Asia by joining the US-led invasion of Iraq, taking on the role of US regional policeman, and supporting the US policy of préemptive strikes against potential threats.

Beazley, a respected former defense minister, also said the policy failures "have exhausted regional goodwill."

Marginalized

While Australia was too big to be ignored by Southeast Asian nations on a bilateral level, Beazley said it was being marginalized on regional issues since Labor lost government in 1996 after 13 years in office.

"When it comes to an overall strategic approach to the security of the region's maritime environment and the broad handling of the terrorist threat we are left on the outskirts of discussion," he said. "Our ability to influence has been squandered."

Bush's own cop

Regional political leaders reacted with hostility and suspicion when Prime Minister John Howard endorsed launching attacks across borders to remove terrorist threats, joined the controversial US missile shield program and was described by US President George W. Bush as a US sheriff in the region. *AP*

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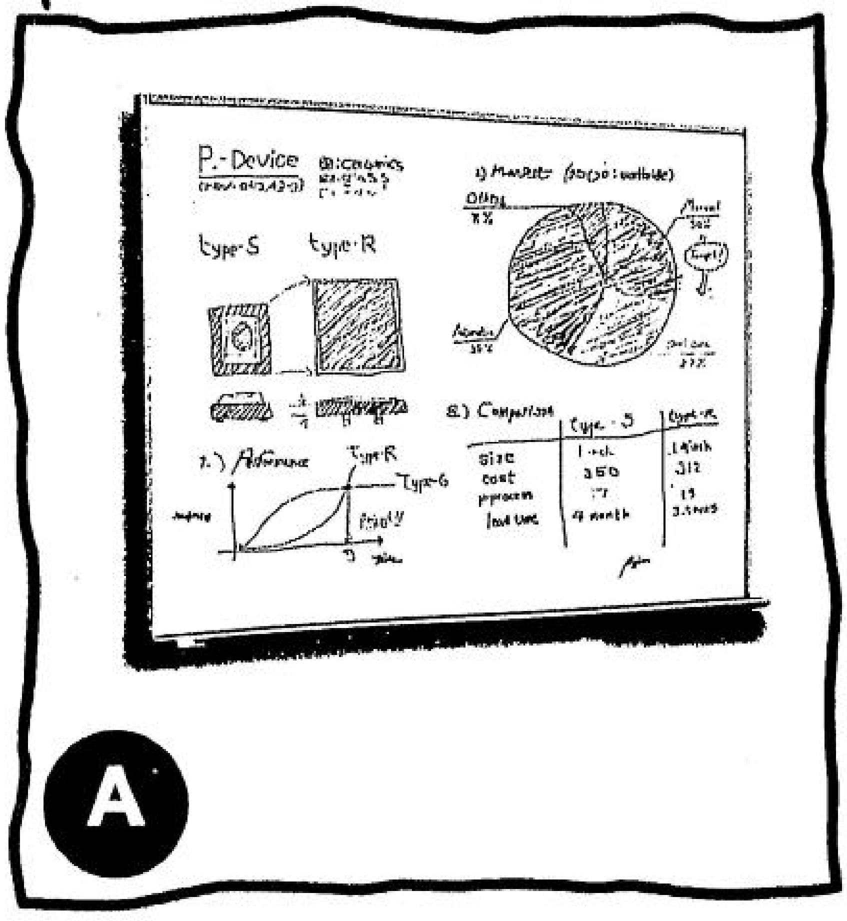

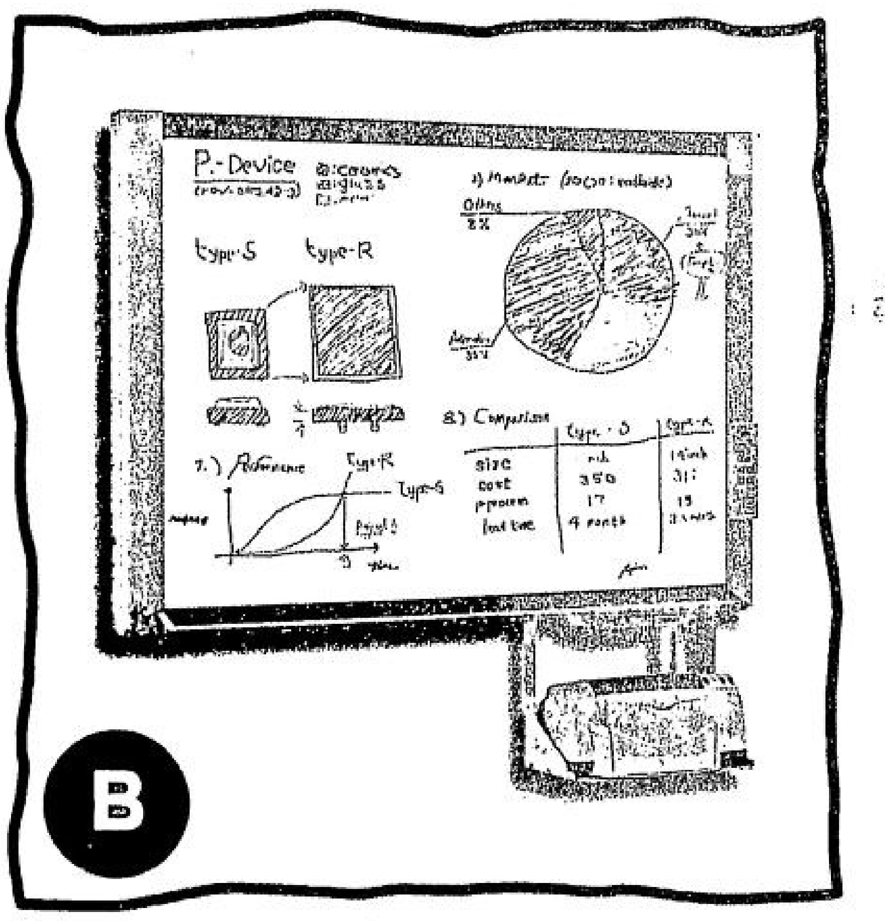

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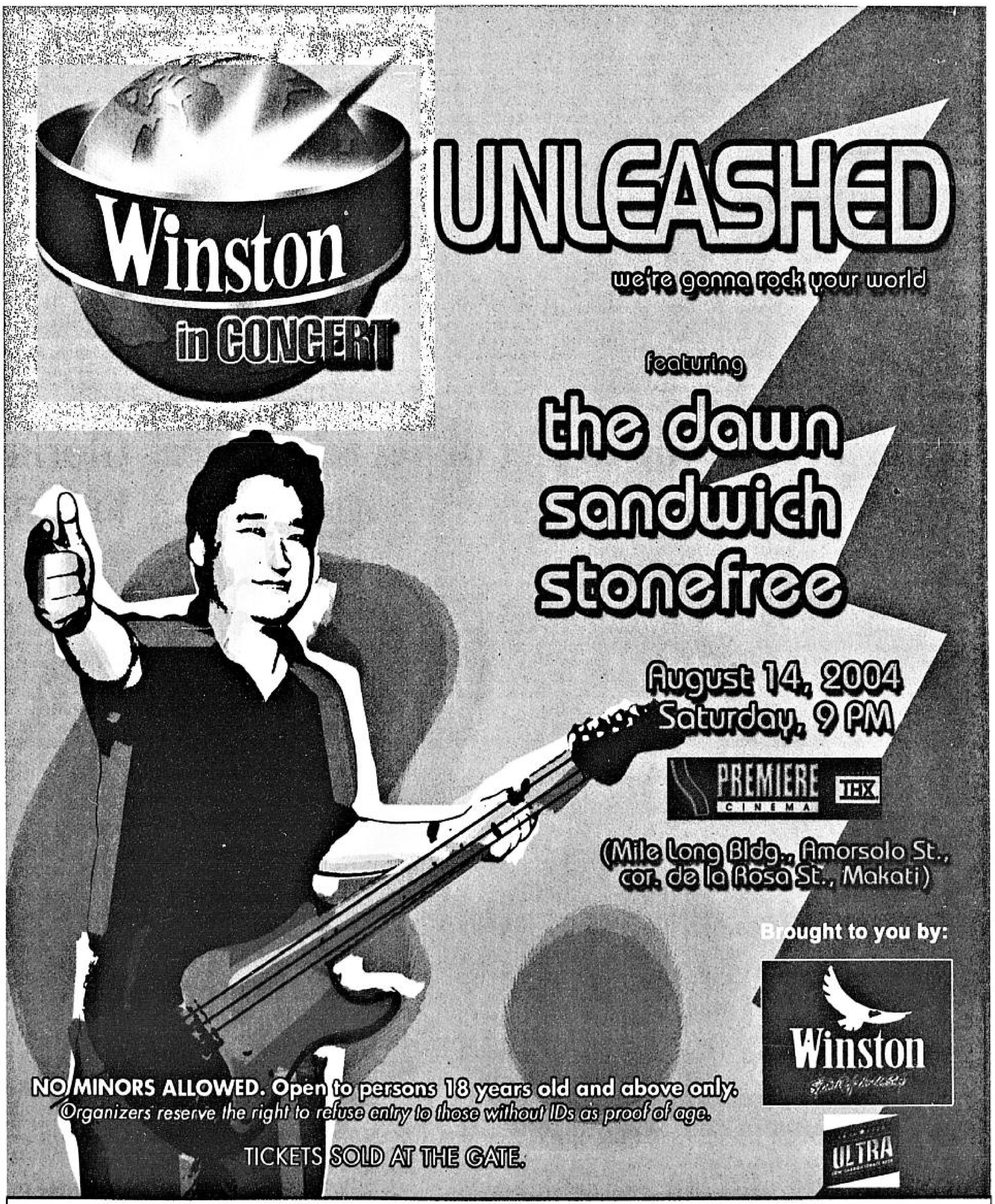

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Reds put off peace talks with government

From page A1

this postponement. The government panel is prepared to address all their concerns," he said.

The US state department announced on Monday that Washington was keeping its terror tag on the CPP-NPA, making it illegal for people in the United States or its territories to give aid to the group, and requiring US financial institutions to block its assets.

Blames gov't

Jalandoni continued to blame the Philippine government, saying the renewed terror listing "showed that no effective measures were taken" on the part of the latter to ask the United States and the European Union to delist the CPP-NPA.

He said this was among the government's "obligations" set four months ago during the previous round of talks.

"We are calling for the postponement to give time to the government to fulfill its obligations" agreed upon, as contained in the joint statements issued in Oslo on Feb. 14 and April 3, Jalandoni said.

He said the two documents also called on the government to release political prisoners and finally indemnify victims of human rights violations under Ferdinand Marcos' martial rule.

"It's now very unlikely that we will push through on Aug. 24, unless Bello takes immediate action," Jalandoni said. "But with nothing happening since April 3, it's already unrealistic to expect something concrete to happen within the next few days."

'Always optimistic'

Bello said Fidel Agcaoili, a member of the NDF panel, had earlier phoned him from the Netherlands to break the news.

"I was surprised, but I'm always optimistic that we can still sign a final peace agreement," Bello said. "Anyway, a postponement of one month will give the panels more time to evaluate their positions."

In an interview earlier in the day, Bello said his panel was expecting the NDF to again raise the issue of the terror label at the resumption of the talks.

"TARAY" queen at her best during the third Pulong ng Bayan which the President conducts at the Ford Corp. compound in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON

He said discussions on the matter were expected to take a substantial portion of the negotiations, the longest round this year considering the complexity of the issues to be threshed out—the root causes of the 35-year armed conflict, the resolution of which could lead to a final peace agreement.

In the latter interview, Bello described the conditions set by the NDF as "flimsy."

"It has been clear since we began the talks in 1992 that [these] will proceed without any precondition, that issues like the terror listing, indemnification of victims, and political prisoners should not derail the negotiations," he said.

Lack of consultation

He also said that if indeed the government needed more time to comply with its prior commitments, the initiative should have come from his panel.

Bello said the NDF should not have made the unilateral decision of postponing the talks.

He said it should have consulted not only the government panel but also the Norwegian government, which had been serving as the third-party facilitator of the negotiations.

In the first place, a postponement of the talks was inappropriate because the government had been complying with its commitments to the NDF, Bello argued.

He said that of the 148 political prisoners whose release the NDF requested in 2001, 120 had been freed, and the government was working to release the remaining 28 before Aug. 24.

On the indemnification of the martial law victims, Bello said the government had assured them that they would receive the P8 billion previously allocated for them.

He said his panel was merely awaiting the passage of the bill that would enable the release of the fund.

Bello claimed that even the issue of the terror listing had solicited concrete action from the government.

He said that in compliance with the NDF request during the last round of formal talks, his panel had requested an opinion from the Department of Justice over the legality of the terror tag.

He expressed optimism that the legal opinion would be issued before Aug. 24.

Sison's advice

In an e-mail from Utrecht, the Netherlands, CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison said that as chief political consultant of the NDF, he had advised its negotiating panel to postpone the next round of formal talks to allow the Philippine government to "fulfill its obligations."

He assailed the US government for its alleged sabotage of the peace negotiations and its supposed escalation of military intervention in the Philippines in the name of antiterrorism.

He said the NDF was encouraging the government to veer away from its "total puppetry to US imperialism."

"But if [the government] refuses to come to terms with the NDF on such fundamental issues as genuine national independence, democracy, social justice and basic reforms, then there is really no basis for continuing the peace negotiations," he said.

Sison accused the US government of "stirring up the civil war" between the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the "people's democratic government represented by the NDF."

"This is in line with the US policy of intensifying imperialist plunder and war. US imperialism is thereby proving itself over and over again as the No. 1 terrorist power in the world," he said.

The US state department first listed the CPP-NPA as a "foreign terrorist organization" in August 2002. The European Union followed suit, and included Sison in its roster of foreign terrorists.

Frozen royalty

"As an exile, I am vulnerable to all sorts of imperialist attacks and in fact my democratic rights and fundamental freedoms have been flagrantly violated," Sison said.

To illustrate his plight, he said the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control had frozen the advance royalty paid to him by the American publisher for the publication of the book, 'Jose Maria Sison: At Home in the World (Portrait of a Revolutionary), Conversations with Ninotchka Rosca."

"This royalty payment has absolutely nothing to do with terrorism. It is paid in accordance with a pre-2002 contract, which is perfectly legal," he said.

THE LAUNCH of the Antonio Zumel Foundation, says National Democratic Front spokesperson Luis Jalandoni, aims to raise emergency assistance funds for retired mediamen who excelled in their profession and kept their integrity intact. JIM GUIA PUNZALAN

AFP opposes delisting

ARMED Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said any attempt by the CPP-NPA to seek the removal of the terror tag would be opposed by the military.

Abaya also said that, "their efforts to be delisted will continuously be met with strong opposition, especially with their unabated resort to violence, extortion and exploitation of child soldiers," Abaya said.

"If in case the United States or the EU asks our opinion, definitely we will object to their delisting," he later said in an interview.

Abaya said he "fully agreed" with Washington's decision to renew the terror tag on the CPP-NPA.

"From the atrocities that they are committing, like bombing cell sites, employing child minor warriors, resorting to extortion such as collecting permit-to-campaign fees, these are all against the freedom of our people in that sense," he said, adding:

"They are doing some form of terrorism against the people."

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita also welcomed the renewed listing.

"That decision is a decision of a sovereign state such as the United States—a superpower, for that matter. So it's not for us to influence the situation, especially when there is no strong justification," Ermita told reporters. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Kampi meets in HK 'to plot De Venecia ouster'

From page A1

The source said the legislators were in the economy section of Philippine Airlines flight with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and his daughter, Luli. Also on the plane, which left for Hong Kong Friday, were the Viva Hot Babes but it was not known whether they were part of the Kampi entourage.

The source said the party members, who were billeted at the Hong Kong Hotel and Marco Polo Hotel in Kowloon, returned to the country on Monday night.

Among those present at the meeting hosted by the First Gentleman were his brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo (Kampi, 5th district, Negros Occidental) and son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Lakas, second district, Pampanga), who was with his wife, Angela. Also with them was Ephraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"The Speaker's days are numbered. In due time, we'll be the new majority," the source quoted one of the Kampi members who attended the meeting as saying.

In his speech during his election as Speaker for the fourth time on July 27, De Venecia promised an independent Congress. A total of 191 out of the 236 members of the House voted for De Venecia's election.

"We are the President's full partners and faithful allies in rebuilding this nation – and in unifying our people. But this House shall maintain its independence; never shall this House be a footstool of Malacañang," the Speaker said.

Kampi is currently seeking to get more committee chairmanships. De Venecia promised to allocate chairmanships and memberships as fairly and as equitably as possible.

The House of Representatives has only 53 committees, with 140 second-and third-termers and 96 neophytes vying for the committee chairmanships.

As of Tuesday, Kampi had only three committee chairmanships. These were the committee on public order under Rep. Amado Espino Jr. (second district, Pangasinan); the committee on defense under Rep. Roilo Golez (second district, Parañaque); and the committee on youth and sports headed by Rep. Renato Unico Jr. (lone district, Camarines Norte).

In a talk with the INQUIRER on the phone, Iggy Arroyo confirmed he and his colleagues were in Hong Kong but denied it was because of the Kampi meeting.

Outing, last-day sale

Iggy Arroyo said he and his family as well as his cousins and their children paid for their trip.

"It was not a Kampi caucus. It was an outing by the whole (Arroyo) family because Hong Kong is very near. We even invited our uncles but they were not able to leave because they're too old," he said.

He said the Arroyos chose Hong Kong because it was the last day of the summer sale with discounts on items of up to 80 percent.

Iggy Arroyo denied there were 70 Kampi stalwarts present in Hong Kong. In fact, he said, party leaders like Rep. Ronaldo Puno (Kampi, first district, Antipolo City) and Rep. Luis Villafuerte (Kampi, second district, Camarines Sur) were in Manila at that time.

'Family affair'

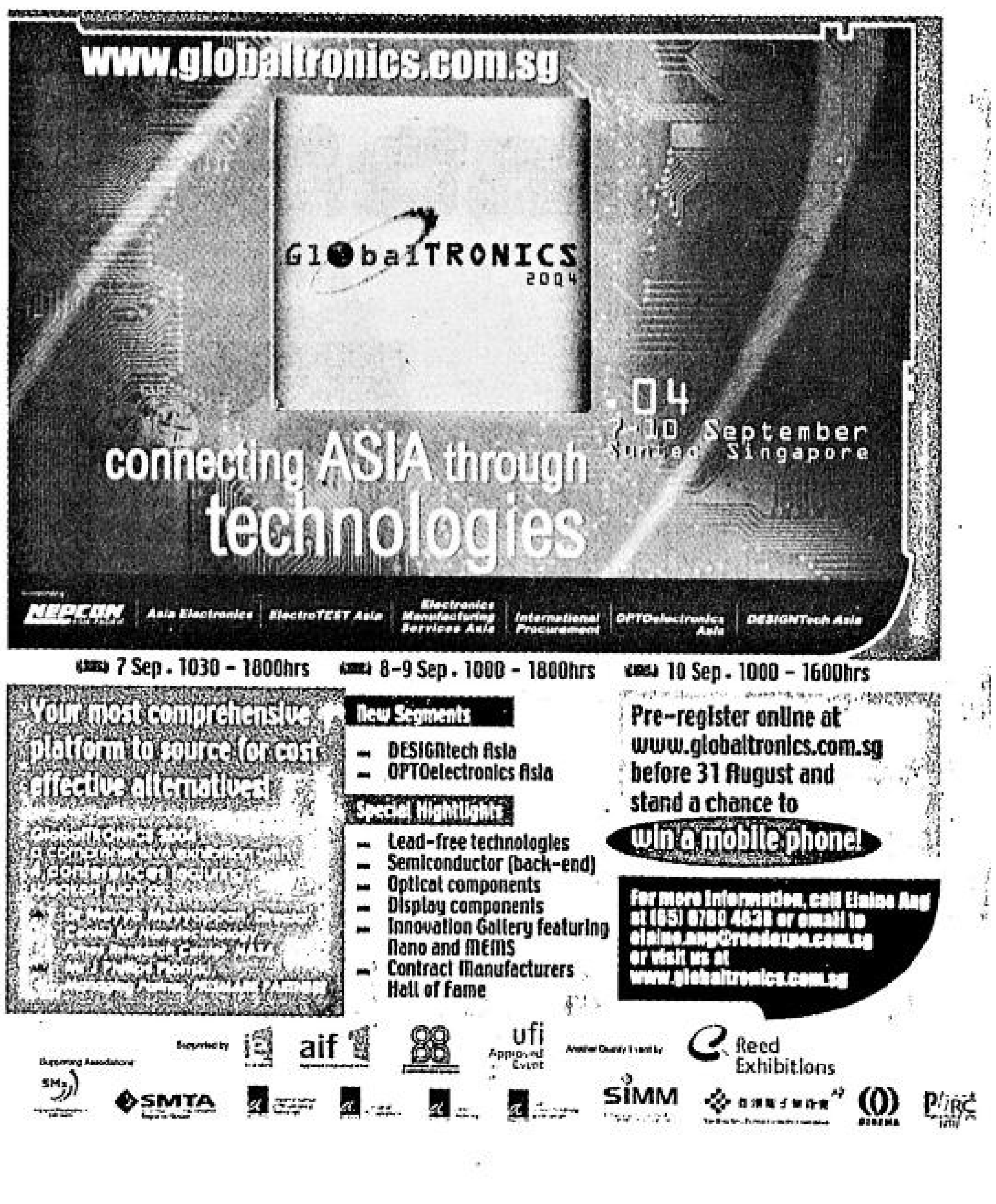
Iggy Arroyo also insisted that there was nothing sinister about the outing because it was a "family affair."

Asked if Kampi was still plotting De Venecia's ouster, he said: "I think there's no more attempt to oust him. Everything is going on smoothly as far as committee chairmanships are concerned. In fact, by Monday, the committee chairmanships will be complete."

He continued : "Joe de Venecia will not be removed. *Mahal namin si* Speaker."

Iggy Arroyo also said that Genuino was not part of the family entourage and that they just saw each other in Hong Kong.

He said he bumped into Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo who was also in Hong Kong.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Gloria tells men: Kiss me not

From page A1

"Please—all the men in the country—so that I don't have to be rude to you, do not attempt to kiss me," the President said yesterday during a "Pulong Bayan," or town hall meeting, at the Ford car factory in Sta. Rosa Laguna.

Ms Arroyo was responding to an emcee who had said a man in the crowd wanted to kiss her but hesitated because he hadn't brushed his teeth.

Aversion to foul breath was "not the only reason" that bussing strangers did not sit well with her, she said in Filipino. "First, show some respect. Secondly, I am conservative. I do not want to be kissed by any man but my husband."

Typical Filipina

She did "*beso-beso*" (literally, kiss-kiss, one on each cheek) only with females and a handful of very close male colleagues, the President clarified. For example, she said, she was "on *beso-beso* terms" with "Noli, my vice president [because] we have to work together, we have to be friendly with one another."

On the other hand, she said, "I have known Mr. [Henry] Co for quite some time and we do not make *beso-beso* with each other." Co is the president of Ford Philippines.

Vice President De Castro said Ms Arroyo was just being a "typical Filipina."

Wrong foot

Either that, or her tolerance level had hit the all-too-familiar low at that point in the meeting, designed as a consultation with the masses.

The Laguna "Pulong" started on the wrong, uh, chair. Ms Arroyo was annoyed by the stage setup and said as much, calling the attention of the program organizer, Conrado Limcaoco—her assistant on media and ecclesiastical affairs—over the public address system. She used his nickname, "Dodi," but curtly.

She should have been seated closer to the audience, she pointed out, her voice rising. "This is why I asked for a *bangko* [stool]. The people are less nervous and I look more approachable."

Too much effort

Yesterday's "Pulong" was the third in a row of town hall exchanges meant to bring the President closer to the grass roots. The concept proved very effective during the last presidential campaign. But now it seems it's not exactly a breeze for Ms Arroyo to show that she is one of the common *tao*.

During the first post-election "Pulong" last month in Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City, she could hardly hide her discomfort when made to remove her shoes and sit Indian-style on the floor. Last week at the Caloocan City market, her aides made sure the utensils she would use at lunch were washed again.

Tight security

Access to all three meetings were anything but easy. Yesterday's venue was very tightly guarded.

And some dare want to steal a kiss?

During a visit with Filipino workers in Kuwait last year, one of Ms Arroyo's female bodyguards spotted a man approaching with lips puckered up, and promptly pushed him away.

Lay off

A picture of the foiled advance—palm in his face—made the front pages of local newspapers.

That early, Malacañang issued a position, and now is a good time to reiterate it: Lay off the lady. *With a report from AP*

RP safe despite cholera outbreak, DOH assures

THE HEALTH department yesterday said it is safe for tourists to visit the Philippines despite a new outbreak of cholera which has already killed 47 people.

"It is still safe for people to travel here since the outbreak is only confined to central Pangasinan. The risk for travelers is very low even in the area where the epidemic actually occurred," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement.

The department's task force on acute gastroenteritis surveillance and outbreak response reported that 47 people have died out of 4,403 acute gastroenteritis cases reported between May 28 to Aug. 5.

The task force said the number of cases being admitted into the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, where most of the cases are being treated, has started to go down.

But Dayrit warned the public to avoid consuming potentially contaminated food and drinks.

Cholera is a serious infection of the bowels caused by drinking infected water or eating infected food.

"A food and water-borne disease like cholera can easily be prevented. We just need to take some precautions such as choosing foods that were processed, cooking food thoroughly, eating cooked foods immediately and storing cooked food carefully," Dayrit said.

Re-heating cooked food thoroughly, avoiding contact between raw and cooked food, washing hands repeatedly, keeping kitchen surfaces meticulously clean, protecting food from insects, rodents and other animals and using safe water for drinking and cooking will also help prevent cholera, he added. *Martin P. Marfil*

Blind man stabs blind foe dead

ENRAGED by an old grudge, a blind man fatally stabbed his blind friend whom he found by feeling his way through a residence for the disabled and identifying the victim by voice, police said Wednesday.

Police said they would charge Edmundo Geraldiso, 55, with murder for the attack late Monday in Zamboanga City. A blind witness identified Geraldiso, also by voice, investigator Tirso Cruz said.

Geraldiso had accused the victim, Reynaldo Concordia, of sowing intrigue that prompted Geraldiso's girlfriend to leave him in 2000. Ever since, he had sought the victim to exact revenge, Cruz said.

Geraldiso learned Monday that Concordia was visiting relatives and friends at the residence for the disabled where the attacker lived.

Geraldiso made his way out of his room with a dagger, found the victim talking in a kitchen and stabbed him twice, Cruz said. *AP*

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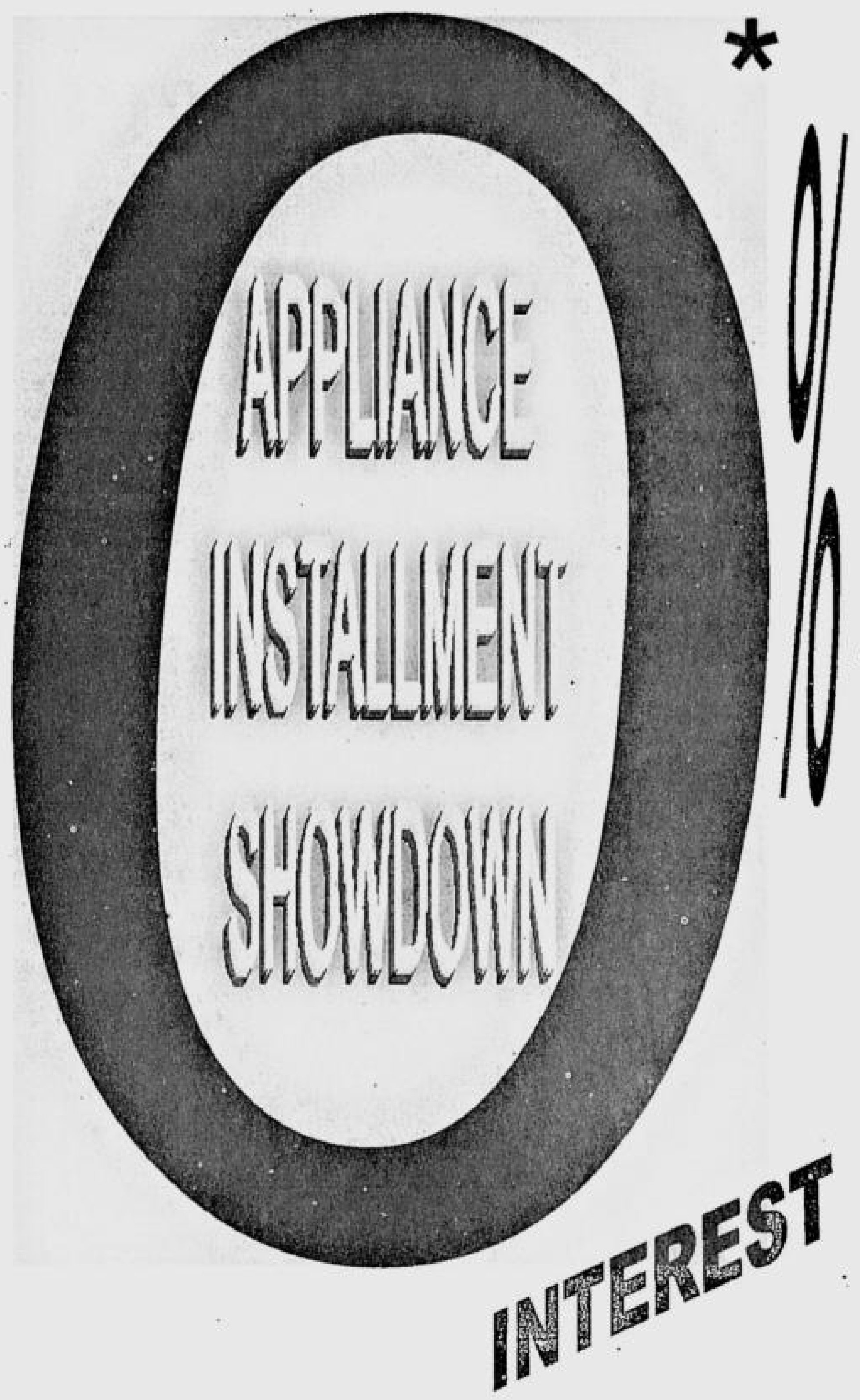

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Najaf rebels get ultimatum: Leave or die

NAJAF, Iraq—Battles between US forces and militants loyal to a radical cleric continued Wednesday in this city south of the capital, as US jet fighters flew overhead and Iraqi police manned checkpoints cutting Najaf into two.

Mortar shells flew at US forces moving into the city's vast cemetery near the Imam Ali shrine, one of the holiest in Shia Islam. No US casualties were reported.

US forces have adopted a new tactic in this latest battle, sending patrols armed with loudspeakers into the streets to demand that Muqtada Sadr's Mahdi Army drop its arms and leave Najaf immediately or face death.

The call, broadcast Tuesday in Arabic from American vehicles, added a psychological component to the US offensive. It came as US helicopter gunships pummeled a multistoried building 400 meters from the gold-domed Imam Ali Shrine with rockets, missiles and 30 mm cannons—one of the closest strikes yet.

Plumes of thick, black smoke rose from the building, which serves as a hotel for visitors to the shrine. Witnesses said insurgents were firing from inside it and that US forces returned fire.

The military said about 20 people were killed inside the building on Tuesday, but on Wednesday more militants had entered the scorched hotel to resume firing at troops.

"We keep pushing south and they just keep coming," said Capt. Patrick McFall, from the 1st Cavalry Division.

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Iraq's new interim vice president, called on the US troops to withdraw from Najaf.

"Only Iraqi forces should stay in Najaf, these forces should be responsible for security and should save Najaf from this phenomenon of killing," Al-Jaafari told Arab satellite television network al-Jazeera, from London Wednesday.

Sporadic explosions could be heard elsewhere in the city. US Marine Maj. David Holahan said Mahdi Army militants attacked three police stations on Tuesday, two with small arms fire, one with eight mortar rounds.

"We've pretty much just been patrolling and flying helicopters all over the place, and when we see something bad, we blow it up," said Holahan, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines Regiment.

Despite the violence, Marines said the clashes were much lighter than in recent days—though few expected it to stay that way. "I think it's the quiet before the storm," Holahan said.

Parts of Najaf were deserted, but residents ventured out into the streets, driving small cars nervously along palm-lined roads as eight-wheeled Marine vehicles moved through town on "show of force" patrols.

To control movement, Iraqi police and national guards blocked roads that connect the city's northern and southern parts Wednesday.

The US military has estimated that 360 insurgents were killed in Najaf between Thursday, when fighting began, and Sunday night, a figure the militants dispute. Five US troops have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers. *AP*

8 suspected terrorists lose court challenge

LONDON—Eight foreign terrorist suspects detained indefinitely in Britain without charge or trial on Wednesday lost a court challenge against their internment.

The men are being held under the 2001 antiterrorism law, which allows foreign nationals to be jailed indefinitely if the British government decides they pose a threat to national security and they cannot be deported to their home countries.

Lawyers for the men had challenged a ruling of the special immigration appeals commission that the government had "sound material" supporting its claim the suspects were a risk to national security.

Lawyer Ben Emmerson argued at a hearing last month that the men should not have been locked up on evidence potentially gained through the torture of suspects at US detention camps such as Guantanamo Bay, or at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

"We say that it is an affront to the public conscience for the state to rely in judicial proceedings on evidence obtained by torture," he told the hearing last month.

But in a written ruling, three judges sitting in the Court of Appeal rejected the appeals.

Lord Justice Malcolm Pill said he found "no error of approach" by the commission.

In the statement, he said that provided Home Secretary David Blunkett, Britain's top law enforcement official, "is acting in good faith, a recognition of his responsibility for national security is required when assessing his approach to the material available to him."

Pill added that "nothing has been brought to the attention of the court which would amount to such misuse of state power." *AP*

DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry and his wife Teresa Heinz Kerry celebrate at a rally at UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas on Aug. 10.

AP

Bush mocks Kerry stand on US-Iraq war

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush mocked rival John Kerry's stand on the Iraq war and rejected the Democrat's timetable for withdrawing US troops as the Republican campaigned with Kerry pal and Vietnam War hero Sen. John McCain.

With McCain at his side, Bush was campaigning Wednesday in the Southwest, visiting Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Phoenix just days after Kerry went through the region.

Seeking to shore up his support in the Republican-leaning Florida panhandle, where many veterans and active-duty US service members live, Bush on Tuesday assailed Kerry on the dominant issue of the campaign as Bush made his 24th trip to the swing state that narrowly ensured his election in 2000.

"Now, almost two years after he voted for the war in Iraq, and almost 220 days after switching positions to declare himself the anti-war candidate, my opponent has found a new nuance," Bush said. "After months of questioning my motives and even my credibility, Senator Kerry now agrees with me."

Bush added sarcastically that Kerry still had time to change his position: "There are still 84 days left in the campaign."

John Kerry was seeking Wednesday to funnel seniors' anxiety about rising prescription drug prices into a drive to bring more older Americans out to vote for his Democratic presidential ticket.

His campaign was launching an effort Wednesday to identify, organize and mobilize seniors across the country and pressure Bush to allow Americans to purchase cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

Kerry was speaking to seniors in one of Nevada's fastest growing cities, nearing the end of a coast-to-coast tour through closely divided states. Polls show Bush and Kerry running an almost even race for the five electoral votes up for grabs in Nevada, which attracts a large number of retirees with its lower taxes and dry climate. Bush also plans to visit Nevada this week. *AP*

South Asia waters recede but danger still persists

NEW DELHI—Aid workers were helping thousands of villagers return to their homes as flood waters receded Wednesday in most parts of eastern India and Bangladesh following devastating monsoon rains that have killed more than 2,060 people across South Asia.

The aid group workers on Wednesday distributed relief kits containing plastic sheeting, buckets, utensils and water purification tablets to thousands of people returning to their flood-swamped homes in the worst hit eastern Indian state of Bihar.

Rain swollen rivers in eastern India remained above the danger mark on Wednesday, but flood waters were receding in most places, said Upendra Sharma, a state government official.

Indian Army soldiers and Air Force helicopters had stopped dropping food and drinking water packets on Tuesday, after road and rail communication links were restored, Sharma said.

However, Army soldiers were stationed at the Danapur Army base, 10 km south of Patna, Bihar's capital ready to be deployed if the situation required, he said.

In neighboring Bangladesh, the monsoon floods that swamped two-thirds of the delta nation affecting more than 30 million people continued to ease Wednesday, the Flood Forecast and Warning Center said.

Since flooding began in June, at least 1,215 people have died in India, 716 in Bangladesh, 124 in Nepal and five in Pakistan, according to figures supplied by authorities in each country and compiled by The Associated Press. Victims have mostly died from drowning, mudslides and waterborne diseases. *AP*

Dissolvable plastic wins Aussie science award

SYDNEY—A plastic that dissolves in water and a bionic glove that can restore movement to paralyzed hands were among the winners of Australia's top science awards.

Plantic Technologies Ltd. took top honors in the awards announced late Tuesday with the development of a new plastic that dissolves in water and can be turned to garden compost.

The "plastic"—which is made mostly from cornstarch—is safe for use in food packaging and can be molded like common petrochemical plastics, but is completely biodegradable.

Plantic says corporations are becoming more interested in the new plastic as consumers increasingly seek out environmentally friendly products.

The company says it has plans to develop a new biodegradable plastic bag. The award comes as the government Wednesday urged Australians to boycott plastic bags in supermarkets over an entire weekend later this month.

Plantic received a prize of A$10,000 (US$7,150) and a newly discovered fly species—Krakatauia planticorum—was named in its honor.

A prize also went to the inventor of a bionic glove that can restore movement to people with paralyzed hands.

The glove uses artificial muscles to help people affected by spinal cord damage, stroke, surgery, burns or arthritis to perform everyday functions like brushing their teeth.

The glove uses special "muscle wires" that store and conduct electricity to stimulate muscle and joint movement, competition organizers said.

A weir keeper from the Australian state of Victoria also took home a prize for his homemade carp trap. Illegally introduced in the 1960s, carp now infest many Australian inland rivers. *AP*

JURASSIC PARK IN JAPAN

Children run away from a dinosaur opening his mouth for the promotion of an attraction "Jurassic Park The Ride" of the Universal Studios Japan (USJ) on Aug. 11 at a Tokyo department store. USJ characters greet guests at the promotion event of the Osaka-based Hollywood theme park.

AFP

T. rex lived fast and died young

NEW YORK—Here's a dinosaur finding that human parents can appreciate: The teenage Tyrannosaurus rex typically went through an explosive growth spurt, gaining nearly five pounds a day.

During that spurt, from ages 14 to 18, the creature picked up most of its eventual adult weight of around six tons, new research indicates. It stopped growing around age 20 and apparently died by age 30.

T. rex was "the James Dean of dinosaurs — it lived fast and died young," said Gregory Erickson of Florida State University, one of the scientists presenting a study of the reptile's growth pattern in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

In contrast, he said, while an African elephant's growth reaches a plateau at around the same age and weight, that animal lives past age 50. *AP*

Bush picks Republican lawmaker to head CIA

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush has chosen Porter Goss, a Republican congressman and one-time spy, to lead the CIA as the troubled agency struggles to repair its tarnished reputation and confront new terror threats and the uncertainty of a massive intelligence reorganization.

GOSS

"He knows the CIA inside and out," Bush said of Goss, who was chair of the House intelligence committee and served as a clandestine CIA officer in the 1960s in Central America and Western Europe. "He's the right man to lead this important agency at this critical moment in our nation's history."

Twelve weeks before the presidential election, senior Democrats complained Bush had turned to a partisan politician to fill what nominally is a nonpolitical position. Bush also was accused of trying to change the subject on a day when more than 100 House Democrats urged the president to call a special session of Congress to deal with intelligence changes proposed by the independent commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The selection of a politician—any politician from either party—is a mistake," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee. "Having independent, objective intelligence going to the president and the Congress is fundamental to America's national security."

Goss could face tough questioning at his Senate confirmation hearings. Like Bush, Goss has expressed reservations about some of the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations. Goss also has been openly critical of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, working in concert with the Bush campaign at times.

Former CIA chief Stansfield Turner, a Kerry supporter, called Goss' selection "a terrible appointment" and said it was intended "to help George Bush win votes in Florida." *AP*

Lee Kuan Yew: 'A trusted counselor' in son's gov't

LEE KUAN YEW: 'Old political warrior'

SINGAPORE—Singapore's octogenarian founding father Lee Kuan Yew says he will play the role of an "old political warrior" in his new capacity as mentor to the incoming Cabinet led by his son Lee Hsien Loong.

"My role is to give them the benefit of my experience, so that they can decide what is relevant to their problems and priorities," Lee said in an interview published by the Straits Times newspaper Wednesday.

Lee, who turns 81 next month, was given the custom-made title "minister mentor" in the new Cabinet to be sworn into office Thursday after Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong resigned as part of a long-planned leadership change.

Lee will give up the title senior minister, which will go to Goh, 63, who took over when Lee stood down in 1990 after three decades at the helm of this former British colony.

Lee's 52-year-old son announced the new titles for the two former prime ministers when he unveiled his new Cabinet on Tuesday.

Based on the official Cabinet list, the order of protocol puts Lee as No. 3 in the government—just below the prime minister and senior minister, and above the two deputy prime ministers.

Asked how the title minister mentor was arrived at, and whether it was his own choice, Lee said his son "chose this from a list of alternatives found in a thesaurus to describe an old political warrior who gives of his sincere advice based on his experience."

On how his new role would differ from his previous capacity, Lee hinted that he would be taking some distance from the decision-making process.

"A mentor has to be a trusted counselor or guide. It is for the PM and ministers to make their decisions," he said.

Singapore, governed by the People's Action Party (PAP) since it gained self-rule from Britain in 1959, practices what Goh describes as the "politics of consensus and convergence" in a region often troubled by instability.

Officials say orderly political transitions and rigid social controls have helped the island of just over four million people leapfrog bigger but less stable Asian neighbors in economic development.

Bilveer Singh, a political science professor at the National University of Singapore, said the elder Lee remained important to the city-state which he nurtured from a seedy trading port to one of Asia's wealthiest nations in three decades as prime minister.

"Lee Kuan Yew is a symbol of confidence at home and abroad. He is a tried and tested leader. His presence is significant and it will be foolhardly to dispense with such a national asset," Singh said.

He also said younger leaders could profit from Lee's vast experience.

"Lee Kuan Yew has always been a mentor anyway all these years. So I think in a way it's just giving him the appropriate title (for what) he has been doing and will be doing," the professor said. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 12, 2004
19th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **Ezk 12:1-12**
Gospel: **Mt 18:21-19:1**

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold ingots. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

"The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you back everything.' The king took pity on him and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

"This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, 'Pay me what you owe!' His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, 'Give me time, and I will pay everything.' The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid all his debt.

"His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, 'Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?' The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to be punished, until he had paid his whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgive your brother or sister."

When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived at the border of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River.

Commentary

We are bound to forgive others, and to believe that God forgives us; but it is not so often said that we must forgive ourselves. It is easier to forgive others than to forgive oneself. Karl Jung wrote, "What I do to the least of my brothers and sisters I do to Christ. But what if I should discover that the least among them all, the poorest of all the beggars, the most impudent of all offenders, the very enemy himself-that these are within me, and that I myself stand in need of the alms of my own kindness-that I am myself the enemy who must be loved-what then?"

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New S'pore PM faces demands for reforms

LEE HSIEN LOONG

SINGAPORE—When Lee Hsien Loong is sworn in as Singapore's new prime minister on Thursday, there will be high expectations and daunting challenges awaiting the son of independence leader Lee Kuan Yew.

Demands for greater political and social freedoms from a younger and more sophisticated electorate, along with economic competition from China and other Asian rivals, are expected to be high on the agenda of the new leader.

But the 52-year-old Lee, a Cambridge-educated math and computer expert who served as a brigadier general in the Armed Forces before entering politics, has long been groomed for the top job—and will get all the help he needs.

His father, 81 next month, and the outgoing prime minister Goh Chok Tong, 63, will stay in the Cabinet as his closest advisers.

"Nothing is going to change. There is going to be a triumvirate with Lee Kuan Yew as the adviser, Lee Hsien Loong as PM and Goh as No. 2," said veteran opposition leader J.B. Jeyaretnam, now bankrupt after decades of fighting the ruling party. "It is a '*wayang*' (shadow play) from the start."

There is little chance the junior Lee will face any political threats with his People's Action Party (PAP) deeply entrenched and the opposition in disarray, but one of his key decisions will be when to seek his own mandate.

"I think elections are coming. It's part of the political culture, the new man will want to have a mandate for himself," said Bilveer Singh, a political science professor at the National University of Singapore.

The PAP was returned to power in November 2001, winning all but two of 84 seats despite a sharp recession in a resounding victory for Goh, who quickly announced he would step down in two to three years once the economy recovered.

In the longer term, officials admit the new government will have to manage high expectations for greater political and social freedoms.

Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng, 57, a ruling party stalwart who is being positioned to become a deputy prime minister next year when the veteran Tony Tan, 64, retires, mapped out the political landscape awaiting Lee.

Wong said that unlike older Singaporeans who grew up in a poor island, the new generation is better-educated, well-travelled, more affluent and insulated from the political and racial strife of old Singapore.

"Today, about 55 percent of our population is made up of younger Singaporeans, those born after independence. They are very different from their parents," he said in a speech last weekend.

When Goh took over in 1990, he promised a kinder, gentler society, and after 14 years, the once strait-laced "nanny state" has indeed opened up visibly. Singapore is developing a buzz as one of Asia's party capitals.

Activities like bar-top dancing and bungee jumping, once frowned upon as brainless activities with no economic value, are now being touted as evidence of 'Swinging Singapore.'

Last weekend, Singapore hosted what was described as Asia's largest gay and lesbian festival, including a party on Sentosa, a family beach resort where the usual attractions are wildlife parks and golf.

Singapore's per capita income now stands at $22,000, placing it well inside the ranks of the industrialized world. The median age of the population of four million is 35 years, and 93 percent of Singaporeans own their homes.

"With these improvements in living standards and capabilities, we must expect changes in values, outlook and expectations," Wong said.

"And a more demanding electorate means, among other things, that the civil service and politicians will be kept on their toes," he added. *AFP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Duty of the Clerk of Court—The Clerk of Court is mandated to immediately deposit with the depository bank all collections from bailbonds, rental deposits and other fiduciary collections. The subject check is not a fiduciary collection, per se. It is a check sought to be deposited by the plaintiffs as consignation in accordance with law, the propriety of which is yet to be determined. Respondent exercised prudence in conferring with Judge Rosales whether to deposit the check or not and correctly heeded the advise of the latter not to deposit the check immediately for Judge Rosales believed that the decision to deposit said check was "interwoven with the exercise of judicial function." Moreover, complainants had converted the same into a documentary evidence when they had the check marked as their Exhibit "N" during the pre-trial stage. Considering that there is no showing that respondent's failure to deposit immediately the subject check was prompted by bad faith, malice, corrupt motive or improper consideration, respondent should be exonerated from any administrative liability. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Austria-Martinez, Resolution, Second Division, Gonzales vs Familara, A. M. No. P-04-1794] BY R. B. VERA

4 dead Vietnamese tested for bird flu

HANOI—Samples taken from four Vietnamese who died recently after suffering pneumonia-like symptoms were being tested for both bird flu and SARS, state-controlled media reported Wednesday.

The victims died between July 30 and Aug. 2 in Hau Giang province, about 170 km south of Ho Chi Minh City, said an official of Long My Commune who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The deaths occurred after a bird-flu outbreak on poultry farms last month in the district, the Tuoi Tre (youth) newspaper reported.

It was unclear how many birds died or were culled during that outbreak, or if the victims had come into contact with any of the infected poultry.

The samples were sent to the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City to be tested for both the H5N1 strain of bird flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, the newspaper reported.

Before dying, the victims experienced fever and breathing difficulties, symptoms common to both bird flu and SARS, the report said.

The test results were expected later Wednesday, the official said.

The Pasteur Institute declined to release further details.

Over the past several months, Vietnam has reported a recurrence of bird flu, resulting in the deaths or culling of more than 50,000 birds. *AP*

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FUNCTION ROOM A
Thursday, August 12, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Public Forum on "Networking for Survival: A Sharing of Consortial Experiences" by Phil. Asso. of Academic & Research Libraries

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Forum on Media Technology: Effective Utilization in teaching by UPLSAA

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Forum on "Cost Efficient Book Printing" by Book Development Association of the Philippines

FUNCTION ROOM B
Thursday, August 12, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Forum on "Prescribed Lifestyle the Way to Live Life" by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Pahina" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

FUNCTION ROOM B
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Film Showing "Pahina" by ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Forum on "Printing Books on Demand" by Fuji Xerox

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
Golden Crayon Awards by Phoenix Educational Systems, Inc.

ACTIVITY AREA 1
Aug. 12, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
2:30 P.M.- 3:30 P.M - Storytelling by Museo Pambata

ACTIVITY AREA 2
Aug. 12, 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. - Flower Arrangement by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. - Candle Making by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation

ACTIVITY AREA 3
Aug 12, 1:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M. - Balloon Design Workshop by Filstar Distributors Corp.

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OPINION

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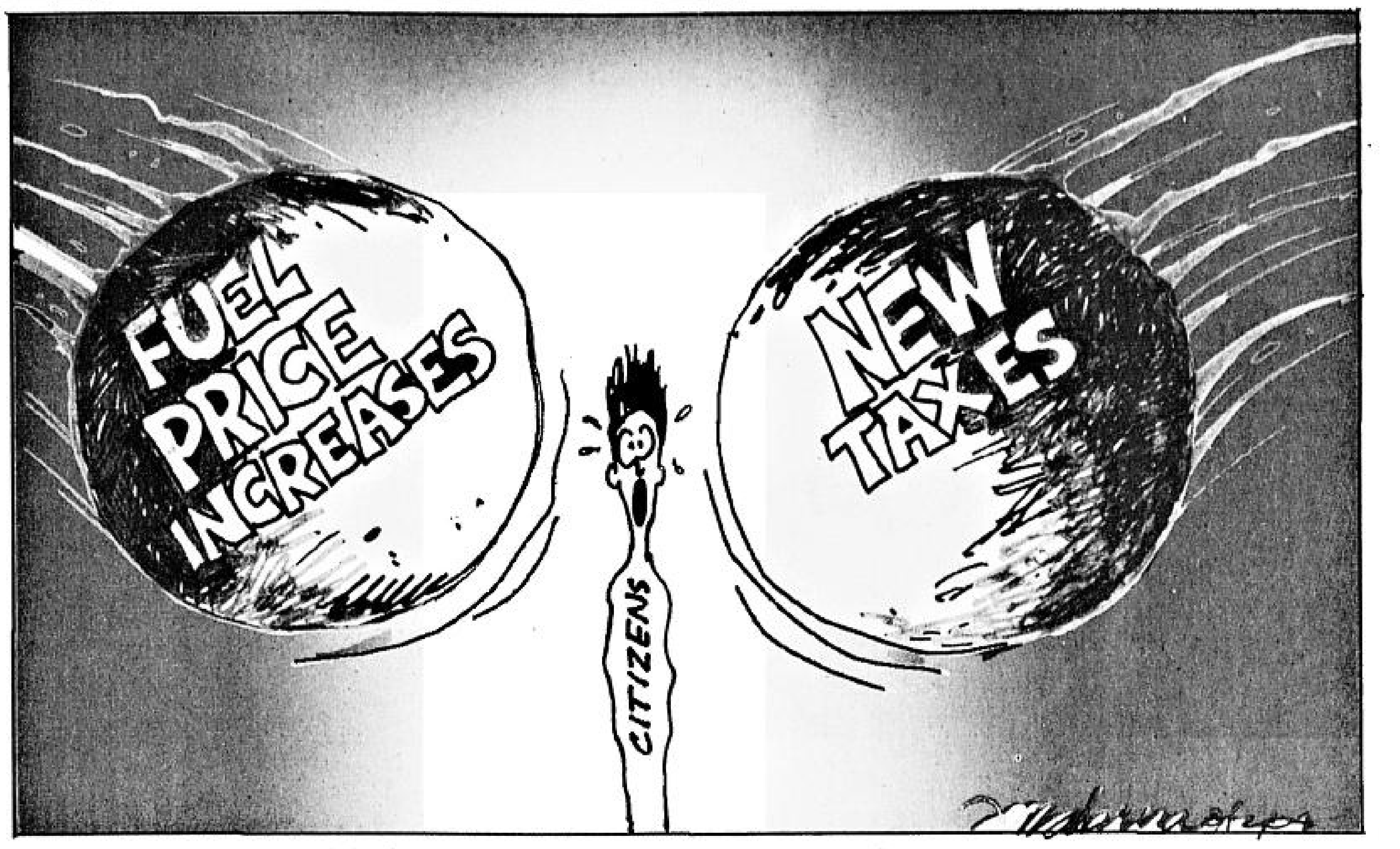

Terror by tax

EDITORIAL

EITHER the worthies who run our lives don't see how untenable things have become, or they are so contemptuous of public opinion that they think they can get away with it. In the face of widespread public resistance to Malacanang's eight-point tax program to address the huge budget deficit, they employ bully language and warn that a "fiscal crisis" will result if the public does not "bite the bullet." The sounds are much like echoes from the vote-canvassing period, when procedural and other objections by the opposition were countered with repeated warnings of "chaos" if a new president were not proclaimed by June 30, 2004. As though the system is so infirm because no constitutional provision on succession is in place to address such an eventuality. As though the public is so damned ignorant that it will agree to anything just to avert an imagined "crisis."

This appears to be what the worthies whom Sen. Joker Arroyo calls "tax terrorists" are banking on: an ignorant—and therefore easy to manipulate—public that will take on an even heavier burden for the purported sake of national survival. As though the survival of the lifestyles of the rich and famous is equivalent to the survival of the burgeoning impoverished class. As though the distribution of resources does not become more inequitable by the day.

These worthies' approach to the fiscal problem revolves on the imposition of more taxes and not on the establishment of a more efficient mode of tax collection. They do not consider—indeed, turn a blind eye to—the revenue lost to tax cheats, whose expertise in evasion is matched by the ostentation with which they live.

This approach involves as well such dangerous moves as the plan to tax text messaging, since discarded, but which would have—on top of penalizing those who use this relatively inexpensive means of communication to touch base with loved ones toiling overseas—actually served to curtail freedom of speech. (To speak nothing of blunting a potent instrument for mass mobilization, such as the uprising that ousted then President Joseph Estrada and brought the incumbent to power.)

Yet they ignore this fundamental truth: that the public will resist the imposition of new taxes because it has not been shown exactly where its hard-earned money is going. To basic utilities (when clean water is an unheard-of luxury for millions)? Housing (when families live on pockmarked streets, under shaky bridges, on eroding riverbanks, in hovels, pushcarts, even boxes)? Health services (when people live short, miserable lives and die without seeing the inside of a hospital, and when public hospitals lurch along on short supplies and a prayer)? Employment programs (when, after Angelo de la Cruz, more and more people beg, steal or borrow to be able to work in Iraq)?

Largely unseen by taxpayers is the enormous sum that goes to debt service, actually a reason for profound rage, particularly in light of the daily interest payments amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars for such white elephants as the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. With the government's total debts now at P5.39 trillion, the Freedom from Debt Coalition is correct to ask "critical questions" of the government: "Were the [borrowed amounts] actually spent for the intended purposes? What were the terms and conditions accompanying these loans?"

The worthies whom Senator Arroyo correctly calls "tax terrorists" are employing not only a perverse but also a woolly-headed approach. (But it may also be presumed that they are protecting their interests.) They will insist that consumers bite the bullet, but will not dream of rocking the boat by recommending that the government do the same in terms of rigorous tax collection, an austerity program, a judicious reckoning of the pork barrel, and, yes, even debt repudiation. And they will not ask the questions that need to be asked if this so-called "strong republic" is to get anywhere. For starters: Why did the budget deficit grow to such a staggering amount (P80.1 billion at last count)? Did election spending have anything to do with it?

The god

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"PRETEND that you are God." An editor of the Economist gave that tongue-in-cheek advice to an edgy colleague, writing his first "leader." Here, we call an opinion-piece or "leader" an editorial, commentary or column.

Do some journalists write leaders as gods? Many columnists, believe "they're not required to back opinion with facts," INQUIRER's Amando Doronila notes. Most lack "extensive background as reporters."

"Are we journalists or garbage collectors?" the New York Times Abe Rosenthal wondered. "If some other journal or broadcast distributes unverified rumor—the equivalent of journalistic garbage—do we just pick it up and distribute it ourselves?"

Indeed, opinion without visible means of support is journalistic vagrancy. But this is a free country, the vagrants argue. Is everyone then entitled to his wrong opinion and "facts"?

Thus, columns overloaded with allegations but stripped of hard data swamp us. A broadcast's shrillness is proportional to its lack of research.

"We're moving toward…a journalism of assertion rather than verification," notes Bill Kovacs, curator of Harvard University's center for editors: Nieman Foundation. "A journalism of unfiltered assertion is (unable to separate) fact from spin, argument from innuendo…."

Presidential Adviser Roberto Romulo, meanwhile, lodged a P50-million libel suit against two Philippine Star columnists. But Maximo Soliven and Jose "Babes" Romualdez can take care of themselves. As an institution, however, media is leery of spillover over court-enforced right of reply.

Uruguay, Brazil and South Africa have such laws. The Council of Europe is considering if the Internet should be required to follow suit. But this is uncharted territory for us and other places where constitutions reject curbs on liberty of expression. Self-regulation is the preferred option.

"There are absolutes in our Bill of Rights," Justice Hugo Black notes. "They were put there on purpose by men who knew what words meant and meant their prohibitions were absolute."

This concern deepens as the number of journalists killed, since 1986, rose to 54. "In Asean, the Philippines has the longest history of press freedom," the World Association of Newspapers noted. It "also has the highest number of journalists murdered on account of their profession."

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, meanwhile, offered a million peso reward for the arrest of newsmen-killers. Arm threatened journalists, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane suggested. Even senatorial cipher—Jinggoy Estrada—piggy-backed with a bill making the rubout of newsmen a "heinous crime."

Anybody pinpoint the "culture of impunity"? This arises when criminals get away. The Philippine National Police admits less than half of these 54 cases have been resolved.

Politicians accused of corruption or drug trafficking often strike back at mediamen, notes a Unesco paper: "Unpunished Crimes Against Journalists." Where police and judicial systems are weak, or beholden to crime lords, "deliberate endeavors to hide the truth results."

A culture of impunity unleashes "dark sinister forces that operate beyond legal oversight," observes Nicaraguan editor Violeta Chamoro. She should know. Thugs exposed by her editor-husband, Joaquin, gunned him down.

The Kapisanan Ng Mga Brodkasters, meanwhile, grapples with "block-timers": walk-ins who buy airtime. As victims like Rep. Antonio Cuenco attest, many become electronic hired guns. This is a murky no-man's land. Lines between legitimate media and hustlers blur. Station disclaimers that block-timers air their own individual opinions no longer wash.

"Broadcasters are no more in the business of pumping a signal into the air or a cable, any more than a newspapers are in the business of delivery trucks," Adam Clayton Powel III said.

Journalists are trustees of a freedom to safeguard the common good. As stewards, we are accountable to people, and the "gatekeepers": editors and station mangers. We're also answerable to younger peers, already in newsrooms or still in school.

Free Press Teodoro Locsin Sr. and Newsweek's Tarzie Vittachi, for example, bequeathed to tomorrow's opinion writers standards to work up to. The Magsaysay Award winning Businessworld publisher Raul Locsin prohibited government officials from moonlighting as columnists.

A public relations man, dabbling as columnist, would be unthinkable in their papers. By their professional conduct, they held up, for this vital troubled craft, values that endure. Like other people, journalists learn from example and no other school.

Opinion writers must anchor their assertions on truth. It is "the hardest substance in the world to pin down," reporter Flora Lews wrote. "But the one certainty is the awesome penalty exacted, sooner or later, from a society whose (journalists) stop trying."

A pity some haven't grasped that journalism is a jealous god. It brooks no rivals. And its name is not Gloria, Erap, Ferdinand or even Mao, but truth. "Thou shalt not have strange gods before me."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Under the gun

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER many years ago attending the inaugural of a local version of the Catholic Mass Media Awards in Naga City. The idea was the diocese's, which strove to recognize the contributions of outstanding journalists to Camarines Sur. The idea seemed commonplace, until one of the organizers told me this story:

As it turned out, the award wasn't welcomed by everyone. It was resented by many journalists—or so they called themselves—particularly radio commentators, who saw it as a threat. They saw that the award, by singling out some members of the profession for exceptional honesty and bravery, passed judgment on those who hadn't got them. Many commentators apparently worked without wages from the radio stations, deriving their paycheck elsewhere, notably from politicians. Their capacity not just for deviating from facts but for sheer invention was epic.

Their resentment against the award drove them to try to derail it but putting the members of the board of judges in a bad light. Their capacity for invention ran free. They "exposed" one judge as having embezzled money from his bank, another for carrying out an affair with a subordinate, and so on. All went for naught, however, though the objects of their vilification suffered much humiliation. The award pushed through anyway.

I tell this story to bolster something I've always said, which is that you can't find a more deserving object of an award than an outstanding provincial journalist. The reason for this is that the provincial journalist has to deal with far more adversity than his Metro Manila counterpart. The blandishment and the threat to life and limb are greater. The corruption is more irresistible, many provincial journalists being in the payroll of either the incumbent or the opposition. And the mayhem is more inexorable, criticisms being taken more personally and met with retribution.

That is the perspective from which to view the recent killings of journalists, one coming on top of the other. In but the space of a week, three journalists have been shot to death. They are Roger Mariano, a broadcaster in Ilocos Norte, Arnel Manalo, another broadcaster in Batangas, and Jun Abayon, still another broadcaster in General Santos City.

The one thing they have in common is that they are all provincial journalists. So it's been in the past, so it is today. No Metro Manila journalist has yet been killed in line of duty.

It is an alarming figure, three in one week—it makes journalists fair game for cutthroats—and I am glad at least that one senator, Jinggoy Estrada, has tried to bring it to national attention by filing two bills, one making the murder of journalists punishable by death and the other giving financial and social security to journalists commensurate to the risks they take. The effort at least deserves commendation, even if the solutions deserve reservation.

I agree that journalists should be paid better, but as a matter of justice, not as a matter of making them more secure. They deserve it because they do hard work, not because it will make them bolder. I do not believe in the death penalty on the other hand, not on moral grounds or on pragmatic ones—there is no study to support the notion it deters crime. The only thing that has been known to deter crime is the criminal being routinely caught.

What can, and should, be done in fact to curb, if not stop, the epidemic of journalists being shot is for the national media to bestir themselves to make the killings the burning issue of the day. That is despite the fact that, or precisely because, the victims are all provincial journalists. It is a matter of responsibility, it is a matter of duty, it is a matter of solidarity, if not kinship. That means the Metro Manila newspapers, TV, and radio stations and all the organizations that have to do with media, the National Press Club chief of them. None of this is to suggest there has been no effort—the INQUIRER at one point ran for months the picture of a military man accused of murdering a newsman from Dipolog—it is to suggest that so much more needs to be done. The effort must be concerted and loud—no, deafening. Enough to compel government to make the capture of the killers of journalists the first priority in fighting crime. Not drug pushers, not kidnappers, not terrorists, but the killers of journalists. They are a more despicable and dangerous breed of criminals.

That is the only way the police can be forced to move their ass to nab the criminals, the national media flailing at them. Or at least to stop them from proposing such idiotic solutions as arming endangered journalists to the teeth. What about the other citizens you will turn into endangered species in the presence of abusive journalists? The national media feel smug about this and content themselves with making pro-forma condemnations and exhortations for the police to do their job; the rest of the world will feel smug about this, chief of them those contemplating future mayhem on journalists. The solution is for the members of the national media to feel the gun being trained not at others but at themselves, not at "those out there" but "at me and my co-workers."

That doesn't require a great deal of mental calisthenics. We do not protest this violently, the mayhem will come to us. There is always a first time, the murder of a journalist in Metro Manila is not impossible. Certainly the GMA government has unraveled many firsts, many of them unsavory. In the end we may find out, too late, that John Donne's lines have a more literal than figurative significance for us:

Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for you.

Tax cell plan subscribers first

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TO TAX or not to tax texts is a quandary facing the House of Representatives. At the risk of starting a war right in my own backyard, I submit that we should divide the texters into those who ought to be taxed—the affluent who can afford some form of tax; and those who ought not to be taxed because a tax on text will burden their lives even more. The problem is how to determine the great divide—which is which?

Many of those who can afford a tax on texts, such as company executives and ranking employees, politicians and their families, and entrepreneurs, are riding on the "*masa issue.*" They hide behind the skirts (pants) of the low-income groups to whom a cell phone has become a necessity. Everybody is now against "text tax," including those who can afford it.

* * *

Last Tuesday's INQUIRER banner story reported that as the "text messaging capital" of the world, the Philippines has 28 million cell phone users exchanging some 120 million to 150 million text messages daily. The market is destined to grow with all the gimmickries telecom companies are introducing to attract users, such as the "share a load" of Globe for as low as P1. Prepaid phone cards—in the range of P25 to P100 in Globe touch-mobile phones, and P30-P60-P90 for Smart phones—can be obtained everywhere, even from *sari-sari* stores.

* * *

It is estimated that about 80 percent of text users come from the ranks of small wage earners who now find it convenient—and far cheaper—to communicate with their folks in the provinces or abroad through text, instead of through a phone. A Smart-to-Smart or Globe-to-Globe text message in the Philippines costs only P1. It's P2 when a text crosses from service provider to the other; as against say, at least P40 per domestic long distance call. Texting to Saudi, for instance, where a million Filipinos work, costs only P10 per text; to the US, it's only P20 per text, vs. easily several hundred pesos per call.

* * *

Protesters argue that imposing a tax on texts will hit primarily the low wage earners or the OFW population. This is doubtless true. On the other hand, the more affluent classes need cellphones for instant communication in business and to promote their social life and career. They buy cellphone loads as regular subscribers of a "post-paid plan" billed at the end of the month. Many post-paid subscriptions are even issued by companies. It's the texters in this second category who, to my mind, ought to be taxed first, if text messages have to be taxed at all.

I submit that the great divide lies between those who buy pre-paid loads from P5 to P100, and those who subscribe to a post-paid plan. If the House of Representatives feels that taxes have to be imposed on text messaging, it should be on the subscribers.

* * *

The country's fiscal condition is so precarious that additional revenues have to be raised; the alternative is worse. Government has to practice austerity and save on its operations; it has to curb graft and corruption; it has to collect taxes more efficiently, especially from professionals not known to pay their taxes properly; it has to run after tax evaders, especially the big ones.

But the citizens can also join in the drive and paying tax on texts isn't a bad idea at all for the social classes that can afford it. It is patriotic, and just as there's a citizens' group out to fight taxes on texts, there ought to be another group to dare say, let's pay taxes on them, provided they're reasonable. I'm willing to be counted in the latter group.

But Smart and Globe also ought to be reasonable and pay a certain percentage of taxes on their profits, without passing it on to their consumers, most of whom belong to the lower-income bracket.

* * *

This is not to argue that texting should not be regulated at all. My husband's driver told me that when he went home to his hometown in Abra—a place so isolated that one needs to take a banca to get there—he was shocked to see relatives, who live in shacks and only till the soil for a living, with the latest in cellphones and big pre-paid loads. I've heard observations like this with respect to squatter dwellers. One can easily see how these gadgets have become status symbols, toys and diversions; unfortunately, in many cases, they eat up into the budget for vital necessities.

I've also heard many employers complain of their workers or helpers doing nothing but texting all day, severely affecting their productivity. Teachers complain of students terribly distracted during classes by texting; some schools have also found out that gambling via text is going on right inside their campuses. Youths steal just to have a cellphone. A friend's houseboy boasts of texting as many as 100 messages in a day!

* * *

In a recent lunch I had with some friends, taxing texts was very much a topic. Veteran adman Rey Anthony G. David Jr. of Great Wall Advertising, thinking aloud how to rationalize the use of texting which has addicted many of our young, suggested that perhaps it might be good to set a ceiling on free texts for the lower-income groups, and tax only the excess texts. For instance, he explained, each cellphone user may be allowed, say, 20 free texts a day, that means 600 a month. Beyond that, the texts will be taxed. I like this idea, for it will accommodate the communication needs especially of those in the low-income groups, but at the same time impose discipline in the use of this modern-day invention. For sad to say, texting could be abused, so that it could be harmful to the pocketbook, to learning, to work, even to life.

Rep. Hontiveros takes on Cardinal Ratzinger

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

CARDINAL Joseph Ratzinger had it coming.

The author of the Vatican's "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and the World" has shown once again how the powerful patriarchy in the Catholic Church views women's struggle for equality and emancipation. How is the how? With suspicion bordering on paranoia, that's how. Ratzinger, famous for being an arch-conservative, should expect a fallout.

Part of the fallout comes from Rep. Anna Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel, a first termer from the Akbayan Party who delivered her maiden privilege speech ("Feminism is Humanism") in Congress last Tuesday. Hontiveros tackled Ratzinger's heavy treatise that warned against the rise of antagonism between the sexes, woman power, and other imagined abominations.

I imagine the Lord Jesus Christ—whom I believe to be a thoroughly masculine feminist—befuddled by all this anti-feminist to-do in the Vatican. Jesus posed a counterculture and defended and upheld women so many times. I don't know why many modern-day high priests cannot do the same without being patronizing and suspicious. (Ha, and what would Jesus say about their wearing jewelry and princely raiment embroidered in gold?)

Ratzinger rants: "Recent years have seen new approaches to women's issues. A first tendency is to emphasize strongly conditions of subordination in order to give rise to antagonism: women, in order to be themselves, must make themselves the adversaries of men. Faced with the abuse of power, the answer for women is to seek power. This process leads to opposition between men and women, in which the identity and role of one are emphasized to the disadvantage of the other, leading to harmful confusion regarding the human person, which has its most immediate and lethal effects in the family.

"A second tendency emerges…In order to avoid the domination of one sex over the other, their differences tend to be denied, viewed as mere effects of historical and cultural conditioning. In this perspective, physical difference, termed sex, is minimized, while the purely cultural element, termed gender, is emphasized to the maximum and held to be primary…According to this perspective, human nature in itself does not possess characteristics in an absolute manner: all persons can and ought to constitute themselves as they like, since they are free from every predetermination linked to their essential constitution. This perspective has many consequences. Above all, it strengthens the idea that liberation of women entails criticism of Sacred Scripture."

Jesus H. Christ!

You can download the document from ZENIT News Agency, whose logo says, "The World Seen From Rome." Get a free online subscription if you want to eavesdrop on the Vatican.

Hontiveros now asks: "In the spirit of sisterly correction, I ask why, in the latter years of a Pope who has meant so much to us in many of humanity's struggles for democratization, social justice and a humanist culture and ecological healing, among others, the Vatican has seen fit to reaffirm its earlier, painful marginalization of the feminist movement…"

Feminism, Hontiveros argues, is precisely a worldview that celebrates the feminine principle alongside the masculine in all of life, and upholds the dignity, rights and responsibilities of women in that context. Again, she asks: "Are these not positive energies that can propel the authentic advancement of women? Does the Cardinal not recognize women and feminist capacities for discernment and self-criticism in these matters?"

Obviously not. While I was writing this piece, I entertained this thought: What might people like Ratzinger think when they read Mary's Magnificat? Mary's glorious words I have made the anthem of my life.

On the "antagonism" issue, Hontiveros says: "The adversity is precisely rooted in and exacerbated by these very conditions of subordination in our innermost selves and our most intimate relationships up to our societal institutions. How can we free ourselves if we did not recognize this truth? We seek, not another power over others, but power within ourselves and with others."

Ratzinger (surprise!) concedes somewhat: "It is women, in the end, who even in very desperate situations, as attested by history past and present, possess a singular capacity to persevere in adversity, to keep life going even in extreme situations, to hold tenaciously to the future, and finally to remember with tears the value of every human life. Although motherhood is a key element of women's identity, this does not mean that women should be considered from the sole perspective of physical procreation."

For Hontiveros, the most "startling" part of Ratzinger's thesis was the one about the liberation of women and criticism of Sacred Scripture and his saying that "this tendency would consider as lacking in importance and relevance the fact that the Son of God assumed human nature in its male form." There it is. It would be so Freudian, if it weren't so Ratzinger.

Says Hontiveros: "No feminist debates the fact that Jesus was born a man. Instead, we Catholic feminists cherish Jesus Christ as a feminist man and a sign of the feminine principle of God."

What do you make of a canonized saint (St. John Damascene) who said: "Woman is a sick she-ass…a hideous tapeworm, the advance post of hell"? An Asian theologian I once interviewed remarked that such words (and surely, Ratzinger's too) were "evidence of deep mysogynist contempt and fear of women."

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Feedback on 'four gives'

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MY last column drew some in-depth comments from readers that I'd like to share. The first is from Antonio Sy, who wrote the following:

"I am a member of the generation born in the '60s and I totally agree with you on the inability of this generation to acquire the basics in life… a home, a decent lifestyle and affordable health services.

"Here's the rub. I am also a businessman. For me, the root of the problem is the inability of the small businessman to eke out a profit. Sure, the big boys seem to be able to, but this is only due to their brand premium. Labor costs are high, electricity is high, infrastructure inefficiency [bogs] us down. Government regulates too much. This is on top of the overpopulation and the corruption existing in the system. In short, all these drive up the costs of doing business and lower the profit, which then does not allow us to expand, which then does not allow us to hire more workers, you get the drift…

"As long as there are more bodies than jobs, the workers will never be able to get to the middle class. But it's the same workers who can't seem to understand that there's a lot of people willing to work for less than minimum wage in order to survive. My company is dying because I cannot afford [to pay the] minimum wage.

"Why can't the government just lower the minimum wage and expand jobs, instead of insisting on a minimum wage that's unrealistic. We should look at family income, **not** individual income. If 4-5 people in a family can work for P200 per day per person, isn't that better than one person working at P300/day? That's basically what is happening anyway and most people go underground because they do that."

Another reader, George T. Amurao, made the following comments:

"Thank you for writing that 'Four Gives' article. It really hit the mark. I belong to that generation you described, whose parents made it good in the '60s, '70s and '80s. Unfortunately, I'm finding it difficult to replicate their achievements. I'm not lazy; the mere fact that I engage in one or two 'rackets' at the same time to supplement the regular paycheck can prove that. Perhaps, there's really something wrong in the system in which it is now imperative for couples to have their respective jobs to keep their family afloat. My own mother stayed at home to take care of us, yet we lived comfortably. Now, my wife and I leave home early and come back late at night, and yet we still have to drive our own car (or own a house in a subdivision). A thousand pesos can only bring you one or two bags of groceries nowadays.

"Our kids only have their *yaya* as company (so you can imagine our efforts to make sure they pronounce words correctly, not to mention ensuring that they are taught the right values). We've thought of one of us working abroad but we realize that the social cost would be high. I guess this is the tragedy of our times: In our desperate struggle to survive, we are putting our families at risk. Either we entrust the upbringing of our kids to strangers or work abroad and face more risks.

"p.s. Today's version of the middle-class subdivisions you mentioned can be found in the new suburbs north, east and south of Metro Manila. The trouble with these low-cost housing units—costing P300,000 and up—is that they are so small. How can a family of five fit in a house with a 40-sq. m. floor area?"

A reader who identified herself only as Joy took time to write the following:

"Thank you for this socially relevant article. It is a great eye-opener, because most Filipinos still think that the health professionals, especially the physicians, are already very wealthy to begin with and, as such, do not need to be paid for their professional services.

"A lot of my colleagues have left to work overseas, some as physicians, but most as nurses, to be able to provide for their families. I deeply appreciate your empathy [with] us."

Three readers also sent kind comments on my column on Augusto Barcelon.

From Bien S. Villapando:

"Your quotation of Gandhi of the seven things that will destroy us (re passing away of Mr. Barcelon) clearly reminds us also of the many areas that our Philippine leaders must address.

"I hope we have not reached that stage when the cancer in our society is already terminal.

"At first your column was an object of curiosity to me because of the name. I usually do not expect much from siblings of great men, but I am beginning to be convinced of my error with some of your thoughts.

"A pebble thrown on a pond creates ripples all over."

Mike de Joya wrote:

"Thanks for your article on Barcelon. We need to celebrate our heroes as often as we get the chance. Our young people are looking for real life heroes. People who inspire and to emulate.

"*Kailangang malaman ng taong-bayan na ang Pilipino—tayo—ay mabuting tao.* We can be great again if we remind each other to individually strive to be a better person, and collectively to help each other become honorable people, despite the loud but few desperate and morally bankrupt leaders who make us believe otherwise."

My appreciation and thanks to readers who take time to write me.

This Saturday, Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. will be speaking on "The observance of ethics in media" during the 7th Annual Quezon Symposium on Ethics. The Quezon Symposium on Ethics is held every year in Lucena City by CAP Philippines. If you have the time, do attend; it's always a thought-provoking experience. It's from 9 to 12 at the CAP Lucena Building.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph.

Angelo de la Cruz and national sovereignty

YOUNG BLOOD

Ederic Peñaflor Eder

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

CRITICISMS from within and outside the country were hurled against the Philippine government when it announced, although vaguely, the withdrawal of our troops in Iraq to save the life of our *kababayan* Angelo de la Cruz, an overseas Filipino worker hostaged by armed anti-occupation Iraqis.

The United States expressed its disappointment and its ambassador here advised our leaders to know who our real friends are. According to Australia, the pullout might set a precedent and invite more attacks. Analyses by foreign media organizations—and some local outfits, too—also regard the decision as a mistake.

Filipino-Americans were more scathing in their reactions. One of them, a conservative journalist, wrote that she is "deeply, mortifyingly ashamed of [her] parents' native land." She even went accusing the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" of capitulating to the demands of the "terrorists." Meanwhile, a Filipino living in the land of milk and honey wrote he cannot think of any "specific benefit the Philippines bring to the United States."

The latter comment leaves me wondering: If that's the case, then why are they raising hell about an insignificant nation's decision to withdraw its troops from Iraq?

On the other hand, a Filipina blogger who calls herself The Sassy Lawyer (www.houseonahill.net) has a piece of advice to those who are provoked by such remarks: She wrote: "Remember that these media men and bloggers are among those that have been lied to and misled by their own government into believing that the war in Iraq is something good and noble. Rather naive and pathetic for them to believe that, but hey, some people would rather live in the comfort of ignorance rather than the disturbing discomfort of reality…Be kind to animals, especially the stupid ones."

Not that they are indeed dimwits, but it is of course almost impossible for the foreigners and those who are Filipinos only by lineage or birth, to understand how—as political commentators have already pointed out—that in this country with more than seven million workers abroad, Angelo is not just an Angelo de la Cruz, but the Juan de la Cruz.

It would probably be difficult for them to grasp concepts unique to us like *kapwa*—described by historian Renato Constantino as "the sense of shared Filipinoness and humanity which lies at the core of our beings." They have seen and observed the two People Power Revolts and the May 1 mutiny, but they may never experience *bayanihan*—the spirit that fueled these mutinies.

Bayanihan could very well be the same force that compelled President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to decide for the withdrawal. Fresh from a divisive exercise just two months ago, it is not the President's appeal during her proclamation that brought unity to this fragmented nation. It is Angelo de la Cruz, as the INQUIRER pointed out, that made us one again. A President who won in an election widely perceived to be fraudulent could not risk deciding against the cry of a nation that is one in *pakikiramay* with a *kababayan*.

But no matter what the *wais* and rabidly pro-US Arroyo's reasons are for the pullout—or what scheme she must be concealing beneath those vague statements—her decision serves our national interest which is most of the time confused and bundled with that of the United States. Saving the life of a Filipino is more important than the United States' need for the presence of our troops to help provide a perception of legitimacy through international support to its illegal occupation of Iraq.

News reports have quoted University of the Philippines Prof. Clarita Carlos as saying: "We have to show we are a sovereign country. We have to define what is our national interest, not George Bush. Who cares if they are unhappy?" I agree with her.

What are we afraid of, anyway? It's not as if our national life depends on the United States. In 1991, we embraced the path to genuine sovereignty when we kicked out their military bases here. Did our economy collapse? No. On the contrary, former Senate President Jovito Salonga said that during the celebration of the 11th anniversary of the Senate rejection of the RP-US Bases Treaty, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo told him that Subic is now employing more than 55,000 workers, way higher than the peak employment figure of 30,000 workers during the US Navy days. Also, as already pointed out by at least two newspaper editorials, while the United States remains an important player, it is still our OFWs that contribute the most to our economy.

Outsiders may hit us as much as they want, but we're pleased that the government did the right thing. By trying to save one of its people despite pressure from the international community to do otherwise, the state exercised its duty to protect its citizens and asserted its sovereignty.

When there was a clash of principles between Ms Arroyo and the nationalist Vice President Teofisto Guingona a few years back, Malacañang declared that as chief executive, it is the President's prerogative to define our foreign policies. The pullout of our troops is a foreign policy decision by a leader of a sovereign country. It is not the business of the Bushes or the Howards—who remain lucky for not having their own children kidnapped and threatened of beheading—to decide what our government wants to do with its troops.

Ederic Peñaflor Eder, 25, is a researcher for a broadcasting network and editor of youth e-zine Tinig.com. He is also a founding member of the online group Filipino Youth for Peace.

THEY SAID

Costly mistake

"For him (United States Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry) the names of many friends inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, that cold stone, testify to the awful toll exacted by leaders who mistake stubbornness for strength."

—Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of would-be United States Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry, criticizing the Iraq war launched by President George Bush

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Real cause of our problems

THE PROPOSED 2-child policy of Rep. Edcel Lagman is not the solution to our country's poverty. This so-called solution is more of a knee-jerk reaction, a stop-gap measure rather than a well-thought of, democratically reached answer.

In reality, the poverty of our people is not rooted in our ballooning population. We have enough resources to feed, house and clothe our people, even if our population increases several times over. Our problem is the unequal distribution of our country's resources.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas is not against family planning per se, but it wants to point out that the real solution to our country's problems is to stop the exploitation and oppression of the majority of our suffering people by the landlords, big business and foreign transnational corporations, who are getting the bulk of our resources.

Passing the blame of the economy's stunted development to population growth only diverts attention from its true cause—the enormous greed of a few.

—DANILO RAMOS,
secretary general,
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas,
17-D Kasing-Kasing St., Quezon City

Dumping of garbage law is cause of foul smell

THE FOUL smell coming from the Tanza Navotas dump cannot be solved by using deodorizers. This back-end solution does not address the root cause of the problem. Obnoxious odor is caused by rotting biodegradable waste. And the stink is not just obnoxious. It is caused by toxic chemicals, such as methane gas, sulfides and oxides that, needless to say, are health hazards, and which are produced because mixed waste is being dumped there.

Stop the dumping of organic or biodegradable waste there and the bad odor will disappear like a miracle. No amount of enzymes or deodorizers (and these are expensive) will remove the odor if its source remains. Why spend large amounts of taxpayers' money on enzymes (using biodegradable deodorizers does not make it right) and on the regular testing of the water? It is a given that after sometime this water will fail the acceptable standards.

At present the water in the river still meets standards because the leachate and other liquids have not percolated through the ground (it will take time for them to reach the ground water). Even if the leachate and the other liquids overflow from the leachate pond and go to the river, the water will meet acceptable standards at this time because the volume of still uncontaminated water is still large enough to dilute them.

After some time of non-stop "leaching" into the water, the contamination will surely increase and when the water fails the standards, what measures will then be undertaken? Why let the river die only to resort to its extremely expensive rehabilitation? We have not learned our lesson from the severe pollution that has rendered most of our rivers dead. With our government facing a huge budget deficit, we will most likely leave these rivers as they are—dead. The Laguna Lake is lucky to have caught the attention of the Unesco, which included it in the Living Lakes projects.

If the government must save on much-needed funds, preventive—not reactive—measures must be employed now. The rehabilitation of lakes requires a huge budget. Aside from the money that will have to be spent for rehabilitation, the degradation of the environment has hidden costs, such as lost income of people who depend on the river for their livelihood.

RA 9003 states, "It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall ensure the protection of public health and environment." It mandates garbage segregation at source, segregated collection and segregated destination. Dumping of mixed waste at any disposal facility is illegal under this law.

—SONIA S. MENDOZA,
president,
Mother Earth Foundation,
2/F PHILDHRRA Bldg.,
59 C. Salvador St.,
Loyola Heights 1112, Quezon City

A better Philippines with more 'Yoracs'

THE SMALL farmers wish to congratulate Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac for being chosen for the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

If there is anyone worthy of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, it is Commissioner Yorac. She is a strong advocate of human rights and social justice. She was instrumental in the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and in the resolution of the coco levy cases.

It was only after Commissioner Yorac assumed her post at the PCGG that efforts to recover the coconut levy began to see fruition. Under her watch, the PCGG was able to secure favorable court decisions involving billions of sequestered assets. As a result, she restored the small farmer's faith in government and in the justice system. Hence, Commissioner Yorac truly deserves the citation of "building the people's confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines."

If the people in government, who profess service to the people, would follow her example, then more people, especially the impoverished majority, would also have better lives. Unfortunately, those who share Commissioner Yorac's passion for justice and good governance seem to be too few to do the most good at this time.

—OMI C. ROYANDOYAN,
executive director,
Philippine Peasant Institute,
ppi_sfatc@pacific.net.ph

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NFP is scientific

RECENTLY there has been much talk about pushing for a more aggressive family planning program in our country; and about natural vs. artificial family planning methods. At one time, one of PDI's columnists, Rina Jimenez-David, pointed out that the so-called natural family planning method is not really natural in the sense that a woman who is ovulating is forced to "control" her desires, thus depriving herself of something natural at that moment. Being a medical practitioner, well-versed in the role of hormones in our body, I initially agreed with her assessment. However, on second thought, I would like to share the following observations.

Natural is opposed to artificial, meaning, artificial is something that is not part of the nature of the individual. Now it is very much part of our human nature to make decisions that may go against our bodily inclinations, if only to serve a higher purpose or good. Consider someone who wishes to lose weight, he/she would deny himself/herself food that may be very delicious and appetizing but high in calories. Or consider someone with high cholesterol coupled with a heart condition; a prudent individual with such ailment will refuse to eat *lechon* even if his body longs for it. In the case of sex, we deny ourselves of it when a higher good—proper child care, for instance—demands such self-abnegation. We humans are not slaves to our instincts or hormonal drives. Were it so, we would be like dogs which do their thing in the middle of streets. Or is it proper for anyone to jump into bed with the first man or woman he or she sees just because he or she is in "heat"?

We are intelligent beings, capable of making informed and sound decisions. As to the natural family planning method (called the Billings Ovulation Method), I recall that in medical school, we were curtly informed that this method was unscientific and unreliable. It was only after medical school that I learned fully what the method entails. My conclusion is that it is truly scientific. It is reliable; probably, the only medical condition where the method would not be effective in determining whether it's "safe or not" is when the woman has a UTI (urinary tract infection) which should not be difficult to treat with the proper regimen of antibiotics.

As David pointed out, the woman may feel the "urge" when it's "not safe." The only real reason natural family planning could fail is when self-control is "let loose." Is it too much to ask couples to practice self-control and, in the process of self-denial, learn to love each other more? I think this is not too much a price to ask for.

—NILO CARPIO, MD,
carpionilo@yahoo.com

A choice between Dao and 'Tao'

LIFESTYLE (July 12) and Across the Nation (July 29) featured the University of the Philippines Los Baños administration's decision to cut a Dao (Draconian dao) tree, which was supposed to grow magnificently on the spot where it is now, until concrete structures were made to run through where its root system would have developed, and microorganisms ravaged and burrowed a huge cavity in its base.

The decision to cut the Dao was based on a thorough scientific and technical evaluation conducted by experts from our College of Forestry and Natural Resources, who explained that the rot at its base is caused by microorganisms that have extensively damaged the tree. Its uneven crown indicates that it is not physiologically healthy. The tree increasingly leans and could fall anytime if not for its roots that are poorly anchored underneath the pavement which has limited the growth of the root system.

We recommended the cutting of the tree for no other reason except to ensure public safety, as the area on which it is expected to fall is frequented by university staff and students. If the Dao had grown in the same condition in the forest, we would not have made this unpopular but rational decision. Where it is now, the tree is a threat to public safety.

The people who are calling for the preservation of the Dao do not have a monopoly on environmental conservationism. Like them, we had every intention of saving the Dao until we learned about its true condition. Only then did we make the hard decision of choosing between *Dao o Tao*.

—WILFREDO P. DAVID,
chancellor,
University of the Philippines,
Los Baños, Laguna

Ngayong 8pm + Pagkatapos ng PROBE + ABC

NIÑOS INOCENTES?
Bata pa, kriminal na

plus+
TANONG NG BAYAN
1-woman policy:
Uubra ba sa mga machong Pinoy?

Hatid sa inyo ng ating kabalitaan ngayong linggo, Inquirer Columnist,
Rina Jimenez - David

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IN THE SHADOWS
JUAN ESCANDOR JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Guerrillas of the New People's Army perform a song during a cultural program held during the recent visit to an NPA camp of an INQUIRER correspondent. The rebels are negotiating the release of two soldiers taken as prisoners of war.

Leftists vow to send off visiting US troops with protest caravan

DAVAO CITY—Protesters vowed to send off American soldiers holding military exercises in North Cotabato with a caravan denouncing the war games that would wind its way throughout Mindanao.

The protesters were planning to time the holding of the caravan on Friday, a few days before the military exercises, dubbed Balance Piston 03-04, were scheduled to end.

Frankie del Rosario, Bayan spokesperson in North Cotabato, said the group will hold a Mindanao-wide peace caravan as a form of send-off for US soldiers who took part in the military exercises.

Authorities said the exercises were aimed at improving Philippine troops' skills in fighting terrorism and marksmanship.

The caravan is being organized by Bayan's allied groups from as far as Lanao and Marawi—two cities that Del Rosario claimed have been tagged earlier as the next Balikatan sites.

Groups coming from Zamboanga, General Santos and Davao and the neighboring towns of Pikit and Pagalungan, where thousands of people have been displaced by war, will also join in, he said.

They will set up camp in Kidapawan City today and the group will move to Carmen to face US and Filipino troops.

Del Rosario said the military did not honor its word to confine the military exercises within the camp's 220-hectare area.

Some of the visiting US troops were seen holding classroom instructions in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) campus, 10 km away from the camp, students belonging to the Alyansa ng Kabataan Laban sa Panghihimasok ng mga Tropang Kano claimed.

A number of US visiting troops have been billeted at the USM hostel, an income-generating project of the university, just across the university dormitory for boys. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Judges enraged by Kalinga colleague's slay

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Trial court judges in Cagayan Valley on Tuesday called on the Supreme Court to adopt measures providing benefits to judges killed while performing their duty.

In a statement, Judge Jose Rosales, Philippine Judges Association Cagayan Valley chapter president, said the killing of Kalinga Executive Judge Milnar Lammawin on Monday has "added to an apparently expanding list of assassinated judges who are conscientiously and courageously performing their duties without fanfare."

The high tribunal strongly condemned Lammawin's killing, saying that it was "a sign of lawlessness" in the country.

"Judges are symbols of the rule of law. When a judge dies of a violent death, it is a sign of lawlessness in the country," said lawyer Gleo Guerra, senior chief staff officer at the SC public information office.

Presbitero Velasco Jr., SC court administrator, said Lammawin was the seventh judge to be killed in the last five years.

Just two months ago, Judge Voltaire Rosales of Tanauan City, Batangas, another judge hearing heinous crimes, was killed in an ambush. The police have identified Rosales' killers and are hunting them down.

Guerra said the SC is studying proposals to set up an elite force of court security officers trained to protect judges and justices, revive the office of the court bailiff to keep order in courtrooms, grant additional benefits to families of murdered judges and offer rewards to witnesses who could lead to the solution of the murders.

Police said they have identified two suspects in Lammawin's murder.

Rosales lamented that while the killing of judges continues, the government has yet to provide them adequate protection and recognition.

It is very unfortunate, he said, that judges do not receive a simple citation or even funeral assistance to their families.

"I urge the Supreme Court to adopt a scheme whereby judges who are (killed) in the line of duty would receive posthumous recognition in the same manner as soldiers who die in the battlefield. They deserve nothing less," he said.

Rosales urged the police to pursue the killers of Lammawin and of other judges "until they are arrested and put behind bars." *Villamor Visaya Jr., Melvin Gascon and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau with report from Philip Tubeza in Manila*

Homecoming awaits bishop ordained in US

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN JOSE CITY—On a rocking chair in the living room of a two-story house on Cadhit Street here, 89-year-old Leticia Solis awaits the homecoming of Bishop Ochie, a nephew whom she reared as a boy.

Solis said she would prepare fried banana and fresh carabao milk for her beloved Ochie or Bishop Oscar Azarcon Solis, the first Filipino priest to be ordained bishop in the United States, when he arrives here today (Thursday, Aug. 12).

Solis, whom the bishop calls Ateng, still stays with a helper in the old wooden and concrete house where the bishop and his siblings were born.

She said she would not kiss the bishop's hands because, for sure, "*hindi papayag iyon* (he will not allow it)."

She said she would ask her nephew what food would she prepare for him.

"*Pero iyan namang si* bishop, *kahit ano kinakain niya. Simple lang ang batang iyan* (But Bishop Solis likes to eat anything that is offered him. He is a simple man)," Solis said.

She said they have also started preparing the bishop's tennis racket in case he decides to play tennis with his friends here.

Also eagerly awaiting Bishop Solis since his ordination on Feb. 10 in the States are the clergy, lay workers, other relatives, friends and city officials.

Mayor Alex Belena said the city government would present a council resolution to Bishop Solis that recognizes him as an outstanding citizen of San Jose City.

The bishop was born in Barangay Sto. Tomas here on Oct. 13, 1953. His late parents, insurance agent Anselmo and school principal Antonia, transferred their family to the heart of this city before the bishop finished elementary school.

Bishop Solis, at age 11, entered a seminary in Cabanatuan City.

Fr. Nestor Romano, parish priest of the St. Joseph parish here, said the bishop would meet local priests tonight (Aug. 12).

It will not be the first time, though, that Bishop Solis would return here since he migrated to the States in 1984.

He was here on Oct. 30 last year or more than a month before the Vatican announced his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California.

His homecoming, this time, will be different as he is now a bishop.

The city council resolution said Bishop Solis has shown that "the Filipino is at par with the world's best, thus serving as an inspiration to his countrymen in their quest for success and fulfillment."

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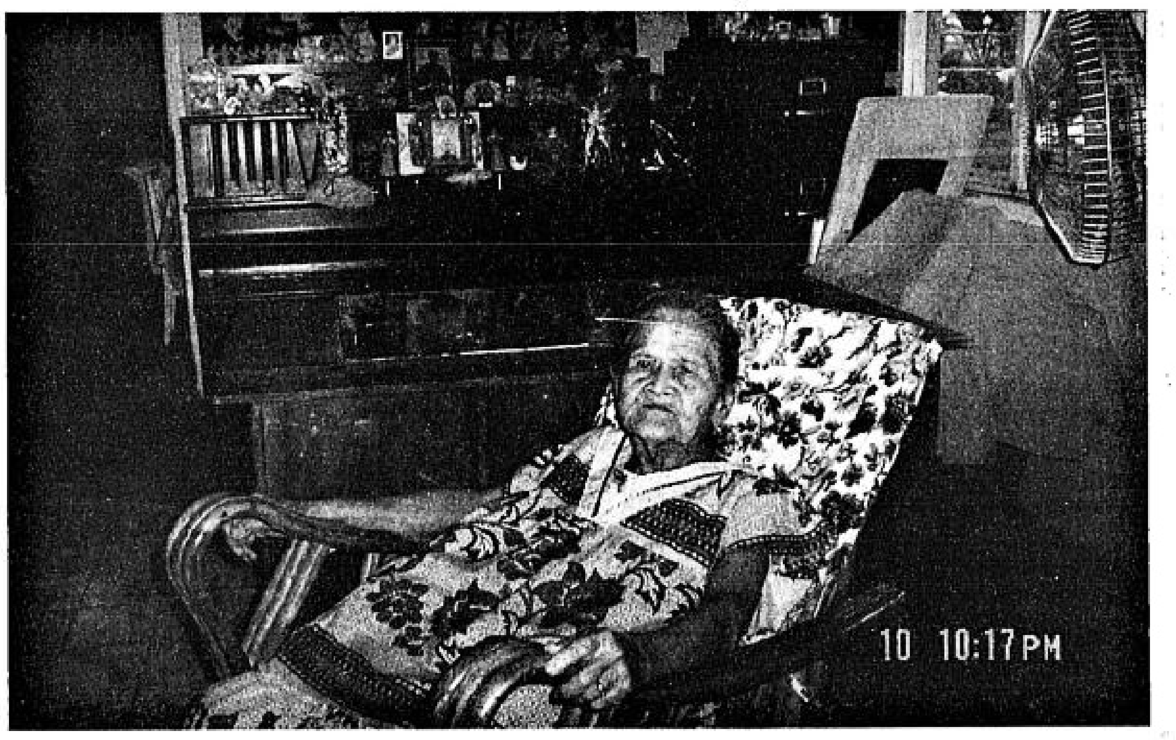

89-YEAR-OLD Leticia Solis, who took care of Bishop Solis, awaits for his homecoming in San Jose City and his home.
ANSELMO ROQUE/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Girl chained by parents to start new life

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Maria left for Iloilo yesterday to begin a new life and to heal from the trauma allegedly caused by her parents who treated her worse than an animal and chained her in their home in Don Salvador Benedicto town, Negros Occidental for a year.

Rose San Agustin, social welfare officer 4, said her new home will be the safehouse of the Department of Social Welfare and Development regional office.

She will also undergo psychiatric evaluation to determine if she needs continuous psychiatric help, she added.

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But whatever course she wants to enroll in, she added, the girl is firm in her dream of finishing college and succeeding.

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In November 2001, her mother scolded her after she saw a boy following Maria to her home from school. Her parents got mad when the boy sent a letter to Maria.

"My mother struck me several times in my buttocks with a branch from a *baho-baho* shrub," said Maria.

In February 2002, she ran away because she could no longer bear the cruelty of her parents.

She said she stayed in the house of a neighbor who informed her parents that she was there. She was picked up the next day.

"My more cruel ordeal started, and the same became a routine daily—physical, psychological and bestial punishment, with a constant shout of '*Patyon ta ka* (I'll kill you),' in between beatings," she said.

On May 10, 2002, she recalled her father returned home, drunk, and slapped her. He dragged her to the kitchen by the hair. She lost consciousness when her head hit a chair after Teodoro kicked her.

"When I recovered consciousness I saw my father with a hoe, shovel and crow bar digging a hole by the side of the house," she said.

"My father then yanked me to the hole and said 'I would bury you here alive,'" she said.

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The witnesses were Russel Jamora, elder brother of Pacquiao's wife Jinky, who suffered cuts in the lips when he was punched by Bael after shooting Abayon.

The remains of Abayon were brought to his house in nearby Polomolok town in South Cotabato.

Police are also hunting a village chief of Datal Tampal, Malungon town in Sarangani who was tagged as alleged mastermind in the July 17 killing of dzRH Radyo Natin station manager and commentator Ely Binoya. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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IN THE SHADOWS

JUAN ESCANDOR JR /PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Guerrillas of the New People's Army perform a song during a cultural program held during the recent visit to an NPA camp of an INQUIRER correspondent. The rebels are negotiating the release of two soldiers taken as prisoners of war.

Leftists vow to send off visiting US troops with protest caravan

DAVAO CITY—Protesters vowed to send off American soldiers holding military exercises in North Cotabato with a caravan denouncing the war games that would wind its way throughout Mindanao.

The protesters were planning to time the holding of the caravan on Friday, a few days before the military exercises, dubbed Balance Piston 03-04, were scheduled to end.

Frankie del Rosario, Bayan spokesperson in North Cotabato, said the group will hold a Mindanao-wide peace caravan as a form of send-off for US soldiers who took part in the military exercises.

Authorities said the exercises were aimed at improving Philippine troops' skills in fighting terrorism and marksmanship.

The caravan is being organized by Bayan's allied groups from as far as Lanao and Marawi—two cities that Del Rosario claimed have been tagged earlier as the next Balikatan sites.

Groups coming from Zamboanga, General Santos and Davao and the neighboring towns of Pikit and Pagalungan, where thousands of people have been displaced by war, will also join in, he said.

They will set up camp in Kidapawan City today and the group will move to Carmen to face US and Filipino troops.

Del Rosario said the military did not honor its word to confine the military exercises within the camp's 220-hectare area.

Some of the visiting US troops were seen holding classroom instructions in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) campus, 10 km away from the camp, students belonging to the Alyansa ng Kabataan Laban sa Panghihimasok ng mga Tropang Kano claimed.

A number of US visiting troops have been billeted at the USM hostel, an income-generating project of the university, just across the university dormitory for boys. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Judges enraged by Kalinga colleague's slay

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Trial court judges in Cagayan Valley on Tuesday called on the Supreme Court to adopt measures providing benefits to judges killed while performing their duty.

In a statement, Judge Jose Rosales, Philippine Judges Association Cagayan Valley chapter president, said the killing of Kalinga Executive Judge Milnar Lammawin on Monday has "added to an apparently expanding list of assassinated judges who are conscientiously and courageously performing their duties without fanfare."

The high tribunal strongly condemned Lammawin's killing, saying that it was "a sign of lawlessness" in the country.

"Judges are symbols of the rule of law. When a judge dies of a violent death, it is a sign of lawlessness in the country," said lawyer Gleo Guerra, senior chief staff officer at the SC public information office.

Presbitero Velasco Jr., SC court administrator, said Lammawin was the seventh judge to be killed in the last five years.

Just two months ago, Judge Voltaire Rosales of Tanauan City, Batangas, another judge hearing heinous crimes, was killed in an ambush. The police have identified Rosales' killers and are hunting them down.

Guerra said the SC is studying proposals to set up an elite force of court security officers trained to protect judges and justices, revive the office of the court bailiff to keep order in courtrooms, grant additional benefits to families of murdered judges and offer rewards to witnesses who could lead to the solution of the murders.

Police said they have identified two suspects in Lammawin's murder.

Rosales lamented that while the killing of judges continues, the government has yet to provide them adequate protection and recognition.

It is very unfortunate, he said, that judges do not receive a simple citation or even funeral assistance to their families.

"I urge the Supreme Court to adopt a scheme whereby judges who are (killed) in the line of duty would receive posthumous recognition in the same manner as soldiers who die in the battlefield. They deserve nothing less," he said.

Rosales urged the police to pursue the killers of Lammawin and of other judges "until they are arrested and put behind bars." *Villamor Visaya Jr., Melvin Gascon and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau with report from Philip Tubeza in Manila*

Homecoming awaits bishop ordained in US

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN JOSE CITY—On a rocking chair in the living room of a two-story house on Cadhit Street here, 89-year-old Leticia Solis awaits the homecoming of Bishop Ochie, a nephew whom she reared as a boy.

Solis said she would prepare fried banana and fresh carabao milk for her beloved Ochie or Bishop Oscar Azarcon Solis, the first Filipino priest to be ordained bishop in the United States, when he arrives here today (Thursday, Aug. 12).

Solis, whom the bishop calls Ateng, still stays with a helper in the old wooden and concrete house where the bishop and his siblings were born.

She said she would not kiss the bishop's hands because, for sure, "*hindi papayag iyon* (he will not allow it)."

She said she would ask her nephew what food would she prepare for him.

"*Pero iyan namang si* bishop, *kahit ano kinakain niya. Simple lang ang batang iyan* (But Bishop Solis likes to eat anything that is offered him. He is a simple man)," Solis said.

She said they have also started preparing the bishop's tennis racket in case he decides to play tennis with his friends here.

Also eagerly awaiting Bishop Solis since his ordination on Feb. 10 in the States are the clergy, lay workers, other relatives, friends and city officials.

Mayor Alex Belena said the city government would present a council resolution to Bishop Solis that recognizes him as an outstanding citizen of San Jose City.

The bishop was born in Barangay Sto. Tomas here on Oct. 13, 1953. His late parents, insurance agent Anselmo and school principal Antonia, transferred their family to the heart of this city before the bishop finished elementary school.

Bishop Solis, at age 11, entered a seminary in Cabanatuan City.

Fr. Nestor Romano, parish priest of the St. Joseph parish here, said the bishop would meet local priests tonight (Aug. 12).

It will not be the first time, though, that Bishop Solis would return here since he migrated to the States in 1984.

He was here on Oct. 30 last year or more than a month before the Vatican announced his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Albay judge braves death threats

By Michael B. Jaucian
Ligao City

HAVING been a judge of three branches of the Municipal Trial Court and Cities (MTCC) in Albay for 12 years now, Judge Aurora Binamira Parcia, 54, of Barangay Panal, Tabaco City, has every reason to feel brave, strong and defiant after countless death threats and amid a heavy work load.

Parcia holds trials every Monday and Tuesday at the MTCC branch for Ligao City. On Wednesdays and Fridays, she visits the MCTC branch for Polangui, Libon and Oas towns and on Thursdays she works at the MCTC branch for Pioduran.

Because of the many cases that she has to pore over, she said, her dining table no longer serves its original purpose. It is now occupied by voluminous case records.

Laments

Parcia said despite religiously studying each case and handing down what she describes as a fair judgment on cases, she continues to receive many complaints and worse, death threats.

In addition, despite working hard to expedite court cases, both or either of the parties involved in the cases even ask the Supreme Court to designate an additional judge so that the administration of justice would be sped up.

"As if the blame for the delay is on me," Parcia bewailed.

Ligao City has 109 pending cases, she said, while Polangui, Libon and Oas have a total of 200. Pioduran has 20.

Aside from handling three trial courts, she is handling cases that came to her from judges who had inhibited from them.

Eldest

Parcia, who is the eldest in a brood of 12, said poverty didn't serve as an obstacle to her studies.

Her father was a court employee while her mother didn't have a regular employment.

To finance her school needs, she worked at the Court of First Instance (CFI), now known as Regional Trial Court, as a binder and stitcher of court documents.

Determined to improve her family's economic status and help her parents send her siblings to school, Parcia studied hard and earned her Bachelor of Laws at the Aquinas University in Legazpi City.

She said becoming a lawyer was her father's dream for her. All the things she dreamed of were realized when she passed the bar examinations in 1978, she said.

From then on, she worked as a legal researcher at the CFI.

AURORA Binamira Parcia, judge of Albay's third district. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

When she gained enough knowledge and experience, Parcia resigned and joined the Brusola law firm.

"Staying with the Brusola law firm was quite a rewarding experience. I learned how to become a real practicing lawyer," she said.

With her exemplary performance in winning different cases, she was appointed by the Supreme Court as an executive judge for the Municipal Trial Court in Ligao City and Oas in 1993.

Tough job

Time management is important in her work, she said, as she reiterated that all of her time is devoted to reviewing and studying cases.

The most challenging part of her job as a judge is "[finding] the truth and how to render a just decision."

Despite her heavy work load, however, she still finds time for her family. She communicates with her six children, all studying in Metro Manila, through a mobile phone.

To relax, she turns to God and family who serve as her inspiration and strength.

Her spare time is spent on housekeeping and her orchids at home.

Froilan Riñon, 50, docket in-charge for criminal and land registration cases, described Parcia as a boss who is very strict but generally concerned about her employees and staff.

Mangyan crosses rivers, climbs mountains to learn typing

By Madonna T. Virola
Calapan City

CROSSING rivers and climbing mountains, Rondigo "Digoy" Ungkay, a Hanunuo-Mangyan, carried a typewriter so he would not miss his daily morning practice of pounding the keys, as required by John Ong, a volunteer teacher.

The typewriter was a second-hand heavy-duty typewriter that he uses to reach his goal: to become a touch typist.

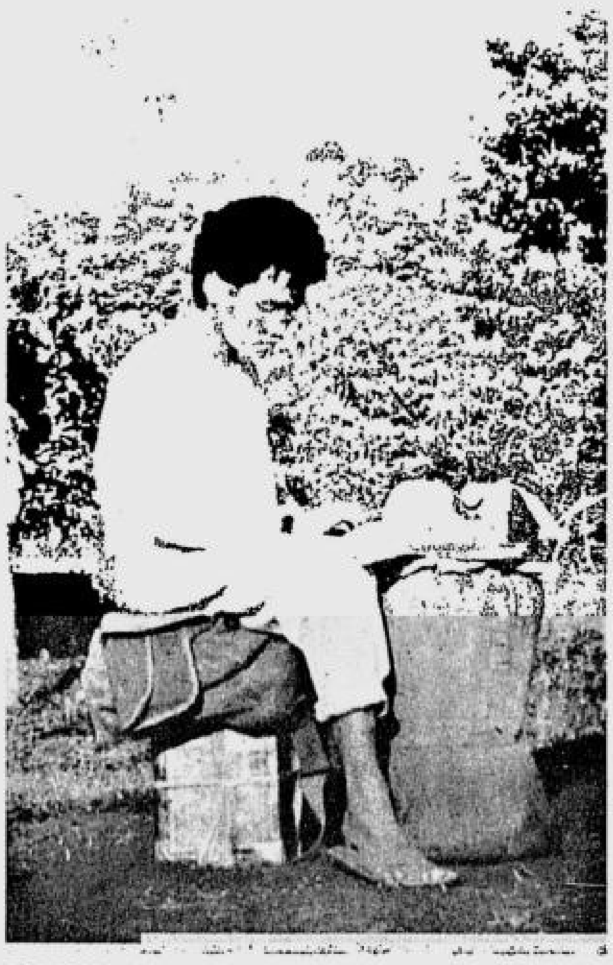
Digoy was Ong's sidekick in the drafting of the three-dimensional mapping of ancestral lands in Mindoro in 1994. Ong said he needed an encoder, but Digoy had bad handwriting so he thought of teaching the Mangyan how to type.

Digoy would sit on a biscuit can, his typing book on his right leg and the typewriter on a "lusong" (manual rice pounder). Sometimes, Ong would blindfold him so he would learn to type without looking at the keys.

"From bad handwriting, Digoy [became] the fastest Mangyan typist," said an amused Ong, who taught Mangyan students how to type. Digoy was the fastest among his students, Ong said. About 350 Mangyan students graduated from a typing course mostly in Tugdaan.

He said Digoy won a contest for second fastest touch typist in Ifugao in 1999.

Those days, Ong recalled, Digoy's speed was at least 50 words per minute.



DIGOY Ungkay makes do with whatever is available around him to learn how to type. This photo was taken in 1995. KYAYAT TITO

DIGOY MADONNA T. VIROLA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON

Ong, who was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men awardees in 2003, said Digoy is now the one who teaches Mangyan students typing.

Desire to study

Digoy came from a broken and poor family. His father discouraged him from going to school and told him to just plant *kamote* (sweet potato).

"But I realized that if a carabao can make its stomach big without going to school, why can't I?" he said.

Digoy experienced being taunted by classmates in a public school in Bulalacao town. "They would strip me off my G-strings."

He remembered having nothing to eat in school. In Grades 2 and 3, he would eat coconuts to contain his hunger, and in Grades 5 and 6, he would eat wild *gabi* and *nami*, both root crops.

Digoy's desire to finish school was strong. He pursued first year high school in a private school in Barangay San Mariano in Roxas town. Tuition was free but he had to work on weekends in a coconut plantation to defray other expenses.

"I went to school with G-strings as my briefs," Digoy said.

He transferred to the Tugdaan high school for Mangyans in Paitan, Naujan. The school is known for quality, relevant and free education.

Digoy then pursued first year college at the Divine Word College of Calapan. Because he flunked his math subject, he stopped receiving support from the Mangyan Mission.

He transferred to the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology in Victoria town for his second year of college education. With depleted funds, he sought assistance from Fr. Fernando Laranaga through Ong's endorsement. The aid was extended for a semester only.

For a sideline, Digoy did typing work.

Gift

He then proceeded to the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry in northern Luzon because of lower tuition there. He took up agriculture and education courses. Again, he worked during weekends and planted garlic, which he gave as tokens of gratitude to Father Laranaga.

Appreciating his being responsible, the priest gave an additional P40,000 for Digoy's schooling.

When Father Laranaga left for Hong Kong for a mission, Digoy's budget became tight.

In Ifugao, the teachers noticed his talent and asked him to compete in a typing contest where he was declared the second fastest typist.

He could have placed first had he finished all the chapters in the typing book, but as it was, he reached up to only 30 chapters, said Ong. Digoy did not study the fourth key levels.

Also, Digoy studied in a typewriter, and not the computer where key strikes differ, added Ong.

When Digoy graduated in 1999, Ong gave him a typewriter as a gift.

Digoy then married an Ifugao lass, with Ong, 35 and single, as the godfather.

From 2001 until now, Digoy got a job back in Tugdaan. He teaches agriculture and typing to students from first to third year.

Ong facilitated the donation of 40 typewriters to Tugdaan from the Xavier School and the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Inc.

"A Mangyan can compete in any job, if only he would be open to and focused on that job," Digoy said.

"I won't forget [what Ong] once told me: "The industriousness of a man helps others and enriches his knowledge'," he said.

The late Manuel Curato of Xavier University taught him the following "golden" rules: Wrong posture means error; accuracy, accuracy, accuracy; and speed is secondary.

Tribal school happy over founder's award

WE ARE happy to know about Kuya Ben's award. He deserves it," said Ligaya Lintawagin, principal of the Tugdaan Center for Human and Environmental Development in Oriental Mindoro.

Lintawagin is an Alangan Mangyan who had been trained by Ben Abadiano, one of this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees, to be school principal when he (Abadiano) thought that it was time for him to go and let the Mangyan folk run their school.

Abadiano won the RM Award for emergent leadership.

On Feb. 26, Tugdaan's story entitled "Mangyan folk build a dream school" was published in the Southern Luzon page of the INQUIRER.

Last June 8, it was awarded Best Positive Story-Human Interest for February by the Luis Prieto Award, an in-house award of the Inquirer's editorial department.

Tugdaan, meaning seedbed, grew out of the Alangan Mangyan's dream for a school that is based on their culture. Abadiano facilitated the realization of that dream with help from the Holy Spirit Sisters and other partners.

It was put up on a piece of grassland at the foot of Mount Halcon donated by one of the Alangans. Abadiano called his first students the "12 disciples."

In 1996, the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports National Council awarded Tugdaan with the "Most Outstanding Literacy Program" in the Philippines. Abadiano was likewise awarded "Most Outstanding Literacy Worker."

This young 2004 RMA awardee produced the first Alanga-Mangyan dictionary.

In June this year, an increase in enrollment in Tugdaan forced the school to turn away four students because the facilities could no longer accommodate the enrollees. Otherwise, every Mangyan is accommodated with free tuition.

There are now 192 students from five of the seven ethnolinguistic groups of the Mangyan tribe, 13 teachers and staff members.

Only teachers of Science, English and Math are non-Mangyans.

Other graduates of Tugdaan are preparing themselves to go back to their places and teach.

Tugdaan is maintained by donations from individuals and groups and an income-generating food-processing project.

Tugdaan responds to Mangyan poverty and various experiences of abuses and discrimination with a curriculum that is wholistic, functional, relevant and empowering. The Mangyan folk are happy and supportive of their teachers.

Abadiano, who will receive $50,000 (or about P2.8 million) from the RMA, said he would not take a penny from the cash award as a sign of gratitude to the indigenous people, who he transformed as persons by serving them.

He pledged that $30,000 dollars will go to the Alangan Mangyan college education in the first two years.

The rest, $20,000 will be used to put up a center for volunteerism, side by side with a center for grassroots leadership and with special focus on the indigenous peoples, particularly the Alangan Mangyan.

Abadiano said he would not leave his consultancy work at the Assisi Development Foundation Inc.

He has been helping the poor communities of Mindanao through the Tabang Mindanaw project and as coordinator for peace building.

Abadiano is also the founder of Ilawan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development whose main mission is "to be light for others, especially the poor." *Madonna Virola*

BENJAMIN E. Abadiano, 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Foundation awardee for emergent leadership, helps Mangyan folk with their spiritual lives. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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BF: No pay for MMDA's ex-casuals

By Margaux C. Ortiz

"CASUALS cannot have the same benefits as regular employees."

With this statement, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando chose to ignore a Civil Service Commission official's legal opinion recommending that 78 of the agency's former casual or temporary employees be given separation pay.

"We have to contest the CSC opinion because it would affect the civil service and budgets of government agencies," Fernando said, stressing that casuals could not be classified as permanent employees because of the added expenses.

According to a legal opinion of Assistant Commissioner Nelson Acebedo, the 78 employees whose appointments expired last Feb. 15 should be entitled to separation pay.

Acebedo explained that the employees, who had worked for the MMDA for 18 to 30 years, were entitled to one and one fourth month's salary for every year of service as separation pay.

MMDA streamlining

The official, citing Republic Act 7924 that mandates the streamlining of the MMDA, said employees, including temporary workers who have been displaced or separated because of streamlining efforts, should be paid the appropriate separation pay, retirement and other benefits.

Fernando, however, clarified that there is no reorganization within the agency.

The MMDA chair said the contracts of the 78 were not renewed because the employees failed to deliver the services required for their jobs.

"Many were supposed to be messengers but did clerical work," Fernando said. "We have too many messengers."

Government employees are continuously being evaluated to ensure excellent performance, he added.

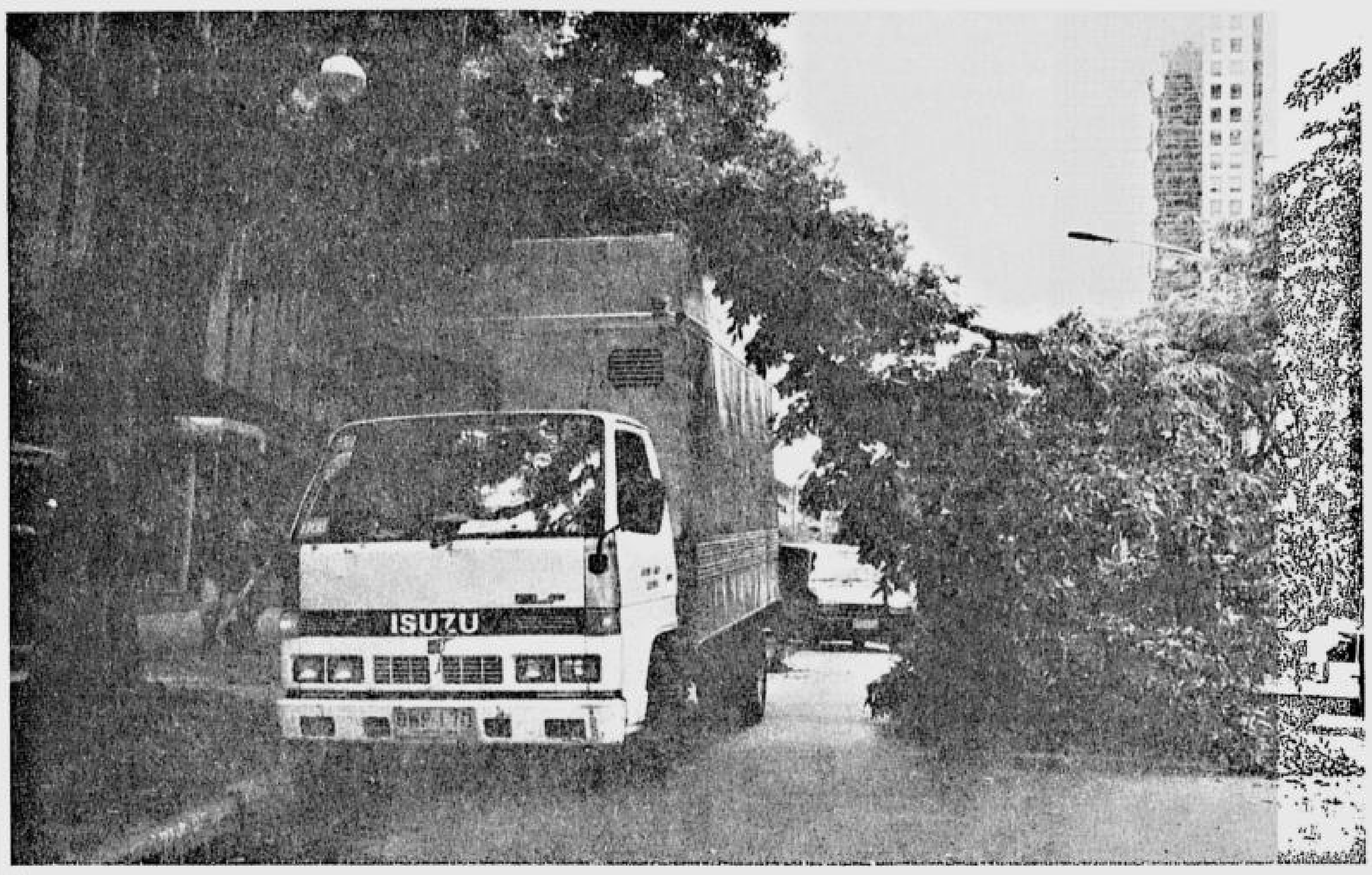
"If the employees' contracts are renewed despite their dismal performances, someone is obviously not doing his job," Fernando said.

Parricide rap vs mall heir junked

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday threw out a charge of frustrated parricide against the son of the owner of the Harrison Plaza Mall for insufficient evidence.

Melissa Mercado-Martel had filed the case after her husband Robert "Roby" Puyat-Martel allegedly beat her up and shot her in the stomach with a .38 caliber revolver inside their condominium unit at the Ritz Towers in Makati City on Aug. 26, 2003.



BLOCKED

A delivery van with an extended top hit and felled a tree branch along Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia), causing a traffic jam Wednesday.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

But Roby, son of HP owner Antonio Martel Jr., had claimed it was Melissa who tried to shoot him, and that the gun accidentally went off while he was trying to take it from her.

Senior State Prosecutor Roberto Lao said that a thorough assessment of the parties' respective submissions vis-à-vis their evidence had shown that there was "no probable cause to indict Martel for the offense charged."

"(Melissa's) narration of the events is far from the truth as testified by the family's own security guards employed since 2000, disinterested witnesses as they are. In this regard, the balance of credibility inevitably tilts in favor of (Roby)," Lao added.

In his decision, Lao noted that Melissa had already said the shooting was accidental in her affidavit of desistance on Oct. 15, 2003 before she filed the case on April 5 this year.

Contradictions

"It has been held that where a witness made two sworn statements and the statements incur in the gravest contradictions, neither of the two statements can be accepted as proof," Lao said.

"By his own act of giving false testimony, the witness impeaches his own credibility and the statement should be excluded from all consideration," he added.

Lao dismissed the complaint based on the testimony of the couple's security guards, Fidel Nimes and Joel Castillo.

Nimes had said it was Melissa who attacked Roby with a knife, and that Roby asked for help from the two guards.

"As may be further gleaned from Nimes' narrative, it was the complainant who was then on the offensive, armed as she was with a knife, and not actually sprawled on the kitchen floor as she purported to be," Lao added.

Nimes also denied Melissa's claim that he had given a revolver to Roby, saying that he had left his gun on a counter because guards were not allowed to bring guns inside the Martel house.

No rebuttal

Castillo, for his part, said that contrary to Melissa's claim, he was not inside the couple's condominium unit when the couple fought.

The couple allegedly got into a fight after Roby said he would have their marriage annulled, and that she was not going to receive a single centavo from him, although she had asked for P50 million.

Melissa "surprisingly" did not rebut the two security guards' sworn statements, the prosecutor said.

"Unrebutted as they are, the sworn declarations of Nimes and Castillo should be accorded greater value," Lao added.

Police fear driver in Ponce death might flee

By Cenon B. Bibe
and Luige del Puerto

THE POLICE have put a 24-hour guard on the driver of the Toyota Prado that was reportedly involved in the accident that killed Presidential Assistant for Resettlement Nestor Ponce on Sunday.

Jason Ivler, 22, reportedly a stepson of a top Asian Development Bank executive, has been confined at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City since the smash-up on the C-5-Ortigas flyover in Pasig City.

"One party died. He (Ivler) could be brought anywhere," said investigator SPO3 Alex Galang of the Eastern Police District as he explained the presence of police guards at the hospital.

Galang said they wanted to make sure that Ivler would be present for investigation.

Ivler, a nephew of singer Freddie Aguilar, is a Psychology student at a university in Hawaii on vacation in the country. He was scheduled to leave the country on Saturday.

Police filed on Monday a charge of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against Ivler, who was driving the Prado with license plate 23370.

The Prado was reportedly speeding on the Quezon City bound lane of the flyover when it suddenly jumped the center island, crossed over to the opposite lane and smashed into the Isuzu Trooper driven by Ponce.

Ponce was reportedly killed on the spot. His wife, Evangeline, 52, was slightly injured.

Yesterday, the family of Ponce asked media for "fairness."

Ed Ladores, the elder brother of Evangeline, called up the INQUIRER and decried media reports claiming that a "third vehicle" and not that of Ivler hit Ponce's car.

"There is no basis for that," Ladores said, stressing that a purported interview quoting Evangeline as the source of the report was not true.

"She had never given any interviews since the incident," he added.

On Tuesday, the mother of Ivler, Marlene, called a press conference and aired the claim.

Ladores said Ivler's family could be "trying to seek public sympathy through media."

6 kidnap gang suspects fall in NAKTF sting operation

By Alcuin Papa

SIX KIDNAP gang suspects, five of them agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the other a member of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), were arrested Monday by men from the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) during an entrapment operation in Makati City.

The suspects were identified as Elmer Avancena, Jaime Popioco, Eric Nazareno, Gil Grefaldeo and Nolasco Taytay, all PDEA agents, and BFP officer Generoso Jaymalin.

The group's alleged gang leader, Tony Jabalo, managed to escape.

The six had been linked to the abduction on Aug. 1 of Rizaldo Policarpio, a resident of Bangkal Village, Makati City.

Policarpio was reportedly released a day after his abduction. His father, Alfonso, reportedly paid P4,000 to the suspects, who initially demanded P150,000 as ransom.

Alfonso reported the incident to the NAKTF, which set up the entrapment operation ostensibly for another payoff in the vicinity of Evangelista Street, Makati City.

Members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (PACER) and the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Forces (AIDSOTF) accompanied the NAKTF in the operation.

The antikidnap group caught the six suspects in the act of receiving the marked money from Alfonso.

Six assorted firearms loaded with ammunition and a total of P6,000 were recovered from the suspects.

Kidnapping charges are being readied against the arrested suspects.

Police, meanwhile, have launched a manhunt for Jabalo.

High-class prostitution is brisk business

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHETHER newsmen should be allowed to carry guns is not an issue.

I'm surprised why the issue cropped up in the first place because many reporters own guns and others even carry their weapons outside their homes.

There's no law barring journalists from carrying weapons so long as they can give a good reason for doing so. If people in other professions are allowed to carry guns in the streets, why can't the same privilege be given to journalists?

However, bearing arms entails great responsibility on the part of the bearer. For one, a gun owner must know how to use his weapon; otherwise, he's better off without it. Also, a responsible gun handler knows that his weapon is for self-defense, and not for harassing other people.

* * *

I submit that even a gun-carrying person is not safe from a determined assassin.

A gun in the hands of a law-abiding citizen has a deterrent effect on ordinary criminals. A criminal would keep away from an armed citizen who has the means to fight back. The criminal would look for an easy target.

And who are easy targets? The unarmed citizens.

In some states in the United States where the authorities are liberal about gun ownership, there is less crime than in states where they are strict with guns. Criminals in states where citizens own or carry guns think twice before assaulting anybody. The thought that their would-be victim might be carrying a gun deters criminals.

* * *

Starlet Keanna Reeves revealed in a TV interview that she was engaged in the "escort service," a decent term for prostitution. She said politicians who engaged her services ended up in bed with her.

Party-List Rep. Liza Maza has jumped on Reeves' revelation, urging her to name those politicians.

Please, Ms Congresswoman, don't be a voyeur.

It's none of our business if politicians and other government officials hired Reeves so long as they paid her.

Reeves' revelation is no longer news. It's common knowledge that some high government officials are regular customers or have become customers of high-class callgirls.

Some college students, office workers, fashion models, beauty pageant runners-up, actresses and other professionals make the oldest profession their sideline.

And why not? The fee ranges from a low of P15,000 to a high of P50,000 for "ordinary" but good-looking women.

For well-known actresses and beauty pageant winners, the fee goes as high as six figures.

A crony of President Erap paid P1 million to an actress when Erap was still in power, raising the ante for prominent personalities in show business and beauty pageant winners. Before that, the highest fee for the most expensive "escort" was P100,000.

For months after that one-million-peso payoff, other less wealthy johns were cursing the show-off. By the way, he's no longer here, he's in the United States.

And who are the johns to the janes? Mostly Filipino-Chinese millionaires, prominent Filipino businessmen, politicians and top government officials.

One jane let me in on the idiosyncrasy of a high government official: he wants to whip the woman before the act.

A director of a government bureau was given a very prominent star as his birthday gift. Knowing that the giver spent six figures on his partner, the official gave her the works. I don't know if the guy was only boasting. *Ewan ko lang kung kaya niya.*

The flesh trade in high places has increased the sale of anti-impotence drugs like Viagra and Cialis. Politicians, government officials and rich businessmen get these not from drugstores but from friends.

Why do I know this? Next question, please.

Rudy Romey; 64

RUDY Romey, library and museum curator of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, died of a heart attack recently at the age of 64.

A Scouter for 28 years, the Gasan, Marinduque, native was a teacher and volunteer Scout leader for a decade before he became Scout Executive of the Marinduque, Quezon and Mindoro Oriental Councils. He also headed the BSP office in the Bicol region as well as the national office's administration division.

In 2003, he became chief of the Ways and Means Division, and later, director of special projects.

Romey was a recipient of the Bronze Service, Silver Service and Gold Service awards as a Scout master, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Merit as a professional Scouter.

He is survived by wife Melba and brother Nolasco.

Romey's body lies in repose at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Gasan Municipal Cemetery.

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1-woman policy: Uubra ba sa machong Pinoy?

Narito ang ilan sa mga sagot ninyo. Abangan ang winning entry ngayong alas-8 ng gabi, sa ABC.

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"maging kuntento sa isa ,wag dagdagan ng iba para di butas lagi ang bulsa"
Juliet Asilum, Km 12, Sasa, Davao City

20-YEAR FUGITIVE

Arrested, finally

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAN wanted for 20 years in the United States for allegedly killing his wife has been arrested in Calapan, Mindoro Oriental.

Geronimo Zuñiga was arrested on Aug. 5 while attending a seminar at the provincial capitol.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response arrested Zuñiga based on a warrant issued by Judge Guillermo Puruganan of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

"The US justice system apparently does not forget even after 20 years," said NBI Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz.

According to Diaz, Zuñiga is accused of killing former wife Lilian Ocampo Cuevas in South Lake Tahoe, California, on Aug. 29, 1984.

On that day, Zuñiga reportedly picked up his 5-year-old son from school before driving to his former wife's office in South Lake Tahoe. It was there where the suspect allegedly took out a knife and, in front of their son, stabbed Cuevas 30 times.

Geronimo is believed to have fled to the Philippines shortly after the incident. A warrant for his arrest, with no bail recommended, was released by a US District Court on Sept. 14, 1984.

Since there was no extradition treaty between the Philippines and the US at that time, Geronimo managed to remain free. Diaz said Zuñiga had remarried and had become a farmer, owning a calamansi plantation in Mindoro.

But after the RP-US extradition treaty was signed in 1994, the US, through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was able to ask the NBI to help arrest Geronimo.

Diaz said the suspect had claimed that his ex-wife had two-timed him.

Valenzuela City puts 119 dogs to sleep

By Tina G. Santos

IRRESPONSIBLE pet ownership has led to the death of 119 stray dogs—so far the biggest number of pets put to sleep through lethal injection at the Valenzuela City pound.

The dogs were mostly sick, malnourished and afflicted with mange, a skin disease caused by parasitic mites, according to Dr. Basil Sison, the city pound veterinarian.

He said that the dogs were put down after their owners failed to claim them.

The veterinarian said that the mass killing could have been avoided if Valenzuela residents had taken care of their pets properly.

He called on animal lovers to adopt unclaimed dogs scheduled for euthanasia, saying he was hopeful that kind souls would be able to give the dogs a home. Owners have seven days to claim their pets.

"Unclaimed dogs would then be put to sleep," Sison added.

Interested pet lovers willing to submit their dogs to castration procedures could adopt unredeemed dogs, he said.

The pound is considered by the city officials as the best way to control the spread of rabies-carrying canines in the city.

Officials said stray dogs impede traffic and dirty the surroundings with their feces and with the garbage they scatter.

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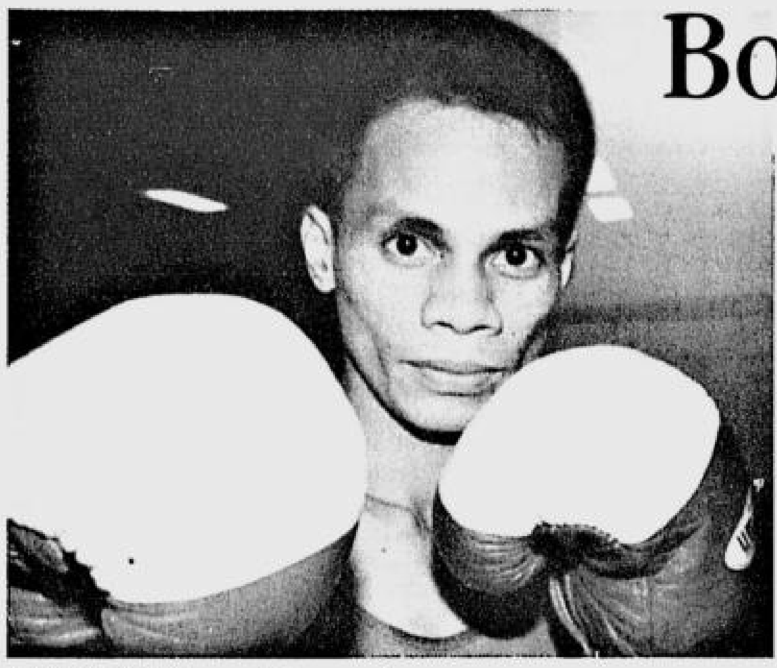

TAÑAMOR: Prime medal prospect PDI PHOTO

Boxers try new approach in Athens

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—They're in top shape, their hopes and spirits are high, and they are raring to go. And this time, they'll be trying a new approach to winning the country's first ever gold medal in the Olympic Games.

The four Filipino boxers carrying the Philippines' brightest medal hopes in the 28th Olympic Games here are now tapering off for the start of the boxing competitions, unscarred and unscathed from the international competitions that are normally part of pre-Olympic preparations of past boxing teams.

"It's a different approach to our boxing preparations," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Instead of competing in international competitions abroad as had been the practice for Filipino boxers before competing in big events like the Olympics and the Asian Games, the Filipino boxers joined boxing camps to hone their skills without taking any beatings from opponents.

The Filipinos—light flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, middleweight Christopher Camat and light welterweight Romeo Brin—had just come from boxing camps in Bulgaria and France.

Lopez said they sparred with some of the world's best fighters in their categories, including those from Cuba, Bulgaria, France, Puerto Rico, Germany and Australia and met some of the world's best boxing coaches.

"We sparred with boxers of proven ability," Lopez said.

Lopez said the Filipinos' morale is high and they're ready to go. They arrived last week from France and rented a house before moving into the Olympic Village with the rest of the Philippine contingent on Monday.

Lopez is particularly hopeful with the chances of Tañamor, who last week was rated as a bronze medal prospect by the magazine Sports Illustrated in its Olympic preview.

"I'm happy to see Tañamor being given the recognition he deserves," said Lopez. Tañamor has been one of the world's best amateurs in his division, having won the silver medal in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, two years ago and the bronze in this year's world boxing championships.

"*Magaling na bata yan* (He's a good kid)," said Lopez proudly.

In Athens, the Filipinos have been tapering off with gym work at the Village training center, working on the bags but avoiding sparring to save them for the long and grueling struggle ahead.

1 DAY TO ATHENS

RP team joins Olympic family

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—A "lean and mean" Philippine contingent joined the rest of the Olympic family in a simple flag-raising ceremony at the Olympic Village here Tuesday, three days before the start of what the Greek organizers had dubbed as a homecoming for the modern and ancient Olympiad.

PDI PHOTO

FIGUEROA: First to see action

The Philippine flag rose and fluttered in the sweltering Athenian air under clear blue skies while the national anthem was played and then Olympic Village Mayor John Marros welcomed the Filipinos to the home of the ancient Games.

Although the 28th Olympic Games will start with the opening ceremonies on Friday, action actually starts earlier.

Archer Jasmin Figueroa will be the first Filipino to see action, competing on Thursday in the ranking round starting at 9 a.m. at the Dellelia complex field close to the Olympic Village.

Refurbished

A double 70-round event consisting of 72 arrows, the competition will determine the pairings for the 64-man Olympic Round set on Aug. 15 at the Panathinaiko Stadium, which was refurbished to serve as the archery venue as well as the finish line of the marathon, which will retrace its route when the Olympics was revived in 1896.

Steve Hontiveros, chef de mission, received an olive branch in a bottle of olive oil for the Philippine delegation, led by the four boxers on whose shoulders rests the awesome task of winning the elusive first gold medal by a Filipino since the Philippines joined the quadrennial Games eight decades ago.

Hontiveros gave the Olympic Village mayor an embroidered table set and a book on the Philippine Olympic Movement by Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, which financed the delegation's trip to Athens.

"This is just the beginning," said former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez Jr., head of the boxing team. "Our campaign can end either in tears or in victory."

Previous Olympic campaigns have ended in tears, although two boxers came to within a few punches of a gold medal. Anthony Villanueva and Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco Jr. settled for the silver in 1964 and 1996, respectively.

Lopez, long-time president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, has a good feeling about the Filipino boxers' gold medal hopes this time. *(See related story)*

Good chance

"I think we have a good chance of realizing our quest for an Olympic gold," said Lopez, whose son, Manny, now heads Abap and is Asian boxing secretary general.

Figueroa has been shooting her average (around 314 points) since her arrival last Saturday. She expects to stay on course "unless the wind blows hard."

But coach Henry Manalang is not worried, saying the 19-year-old Figueroa has a good chance of getting her initial target. Her main goal, though, is to improve the 58th place finish of Jennifer Chan in Sydney.

POC president Celso Dayrit and secretary general Romeo Ribaño arrived Wednesday noon, giving them enough time to root for Figueroa.

Also in attendance in Tuesday's brief and simple flag-raising ceremonies were middleweight boxer and Philippine flag bearer Christopher Camat, swimmers Jaclyn Pangilinan, Miguel Mendoza and Miguel Molina and shooter Jethro Dionisio. Among the other officials present were finance officer Benjamin Ramos, administrative officer Carlos Santos-Viola, coaches Ramon Corral, Henry Manalang, Anthony Lozada and Greg Caliwan, and swimming officer Chito Rivera.

The fifth and last member of the the swimming team, Fil-American J. B. Walsh, planed in early Wednesday from Virginia.

Molina, Mendoza, Raphael "Timmy" Chua and Camat will see separate action on Saturday.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: The PGA Championship, Day 1; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Sports Plus—The year's third major tees off.

BASKETBALL: USAB World Tour; 8 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports —The US Men's Basketball Team continue its warm-up for Athens.

Larger than Life; 10 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Solar Sports—Get to know more about the career of Shaquille O'Neal.

NBA Greatest Game—Jazz vs Suns, Game 4, 1984 Western Semifinals; 11 a.m. (r-midnight); Solar Sports—Relive this memorable encounter between Utah and Phoenix.

VOLLEYBALL: 2004 FIVB Grand Prix; 8 p.m.; Solar Sports —Get to see exciting volleyball action.

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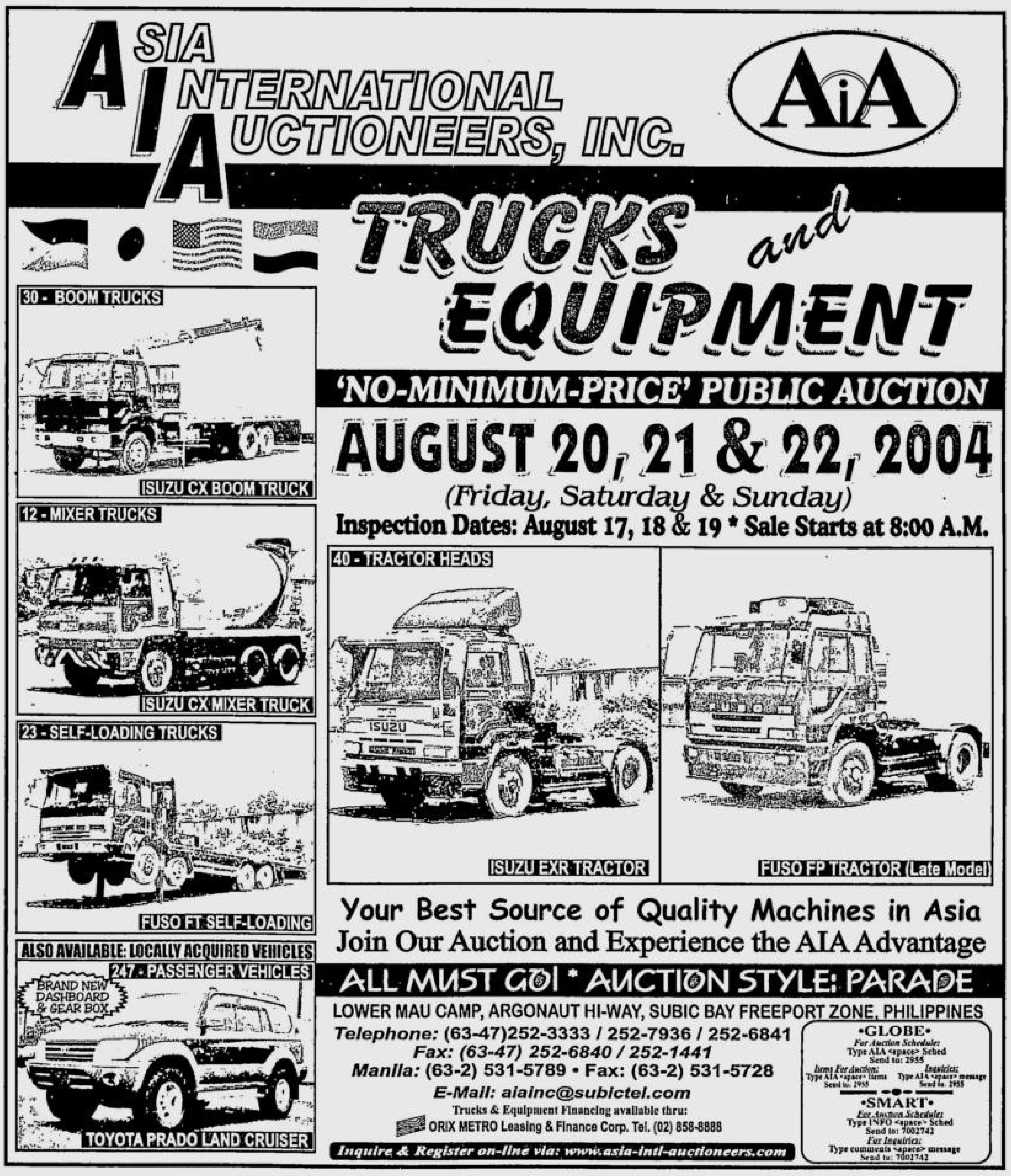

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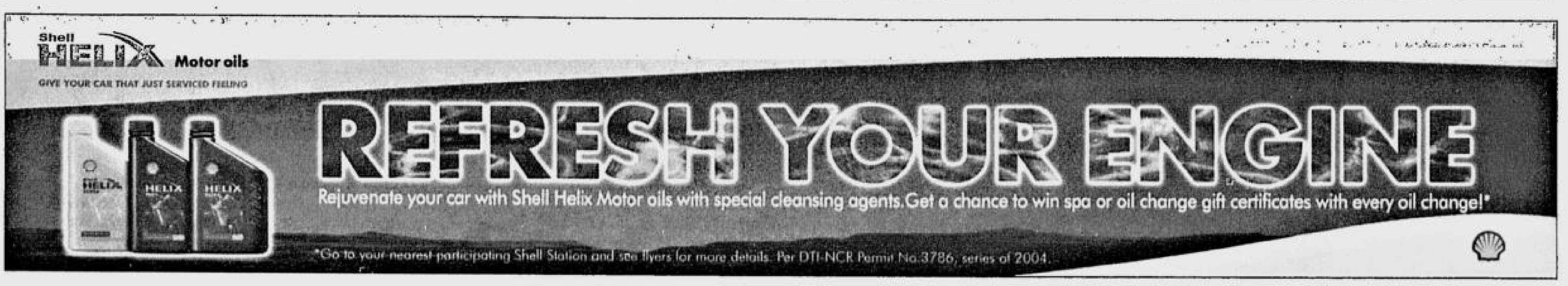

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Eagles feel the pressure vs Warriors

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs UST (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs UST (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Srs)
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

THE PRESSURE is on the Ateneo Eagles as they try to keep their immaculate record against the dangerous University of the East Warriors at the start of the the second round of the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

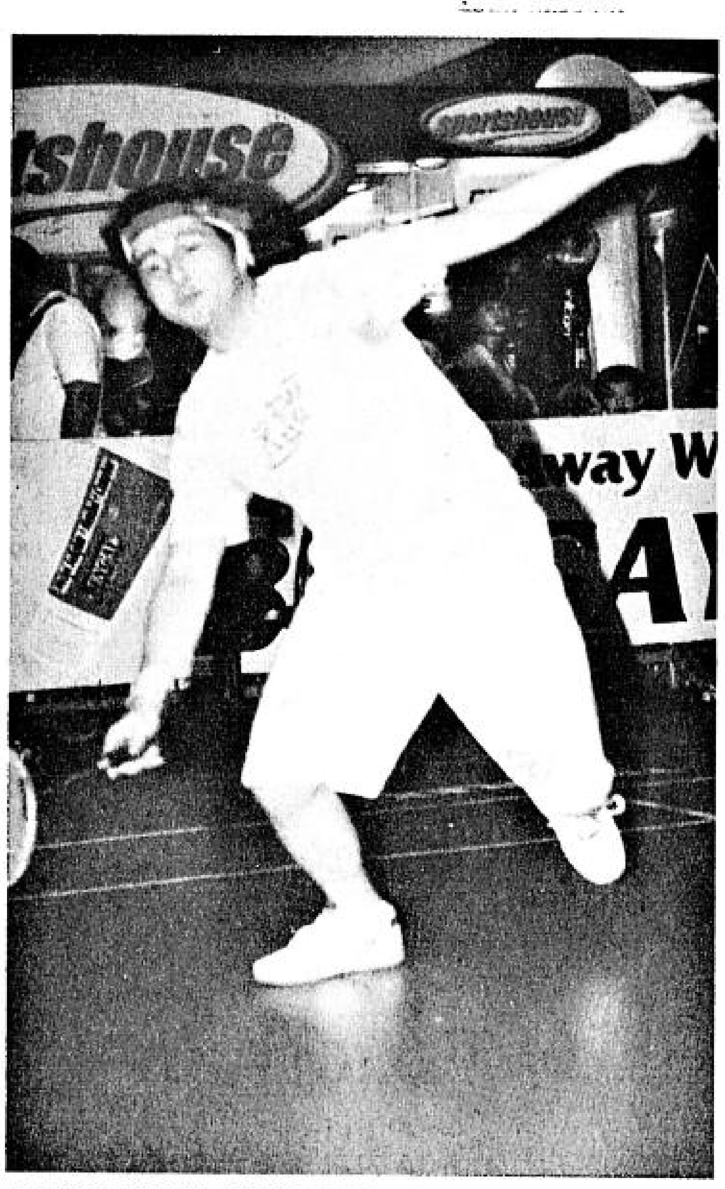
University of Santo Tomas, another surprise team this season, tackles University of the Philippines at 1:30 p.m.

"We're happy with where we are right now, but we're not overly excited because we know we have a long way to go. Everybody of course would want to beat us now. But each and every player in the team has stepped up," said Ateneo coach Sandy Arespacochaga.

Ateneo pulled off the impressive feat minus main man Larry Fonacier halfway through the first round. But LA Tenorio—who bailed out the Eagles twice this season with his clutch three-pointers—became the Eagles' offensive source, along with JC Intal and Paolo Bugia.

UE, despite its youthful roster, surpassed expectations after pulling upsets over stronger teams like Adamson and La Salle. But the Recto-based squad has been leaning on the sensational performance of its three veterans—Paolo Hubalde, KG Canaleta and RJ Masbang.

An Ateneo victory today would also match the team's record for most number of consecutive wins in one season. *Jasmine W. Payo*


BADMINTON ENTHUSIAST: Sherwin Ordoñez, a GMA talent, shows his badminton prowess in the recent Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup 2004. Sportshouse, the leading sporting goods retailer and organizer of basketball, darts and badminton events, has launched its Absolute Price Drop campaign for August, offering up to a 50 percent discount on badminton rackets, accessories and apparel.

Knights thwart Bombers in OT

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs SSC (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—Mapua vs SSC (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

By Jasmine W. Payo

A VETERAN took charge in regulation play, but it was a rookie who played hero in overtime as the Letran Knights rolled back the Jose Rizal Bombers, 87-84, yesterday in the 80th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Burly Frederick Rodriguez finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds as he led the Knights' 12-3 run in the fourth quarter, but it was 6-foot-7 freshman Mark Andaya who scored crucial baskets in the extra period, including a low post bucket that gave Letran an 85-82 lead in the final minute.

In the other senior contest, reigning MVP Leo Najorda shot 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the San Sebastian Stags past the winless St. Benilde, 82-77.

Letran and San Sebastian gained a share of top spot with idle Perpetual Help at 6-3. JRU fell to a 3-6 record, while St. Benilde stretched its losing skid to nine games.

The Bombers had a chance to win in regulation but blew two critical freethrows, the last by Edward Attunaga with a second left that paved the way for a 78-78 tie. Jenciano Domangcas missed the other crucial charity for JRU.

Andaya, who tallied 16 markers, then went on to score five of Letran's nine points at the extension. Boyet Bautista topscored with 19 points for Letran.

"JRU played consistent basketball, but my veterans showed character," said Knights coach Louie Alas.

The Bombers lost starters Wynsjohn Te and Ken Coyukang due to knee injuries in the third period. Senior Raymond Jorge was also sidelined due to lower back pains.

Letran's reliable forward Jonathan Piñera also missed the game due to his father's death in Catanduanes last week.

In junior play, the Squires overpowered the Light Bombers with a 23-point rout, 87-64, for their sixth win in nine matches.

The scores:

Second game (Srs)

LETRAN 87—Bautista 19, Andaya 16, Rodriguez 15, Enrile 11, Alcaraz 10, Aldave 7, Aban 7, Mondragon 2.

JRU 84—Domangcas 15, Attunaga 15, Coyukang 13, Lindaya 13, Fajardo 13, Santos 8, Te 3, Yuzon 2, Magtahao 2.

Quarters: 18-16, 40-40, 56-51, 78-78, 87-84 (OT).

Third game (Srs)

SSC 82—Najorda 15, Moore 13, Baluyot 10, Rebuya 10, Vicente 9, Aguilar 7, De Leon 6, Lindaya 5, Gonzales 4, Maneclang 3, Uy 0, Delgado 0, Estole 0.

ST. BENILDE 77—Sagad 24, Manding 14, Morial 12, Orbeta 11, Evangelista 9, Robles 7, Sanidad 0, Reyes 0, Paguio 0, Abad 0, Rivera 0.

Quarters: 21-11, 38-30, 60-54, 82-77.

A word from Rep. Gonzalez & Hermie

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT'S time once again to allow the mailbox to take over.

"Dear Mr. Mendoza:

"I was reading your column dated August 1, 2004, regarding former World Boxing Federation (WBF) welterweight champion William Magahin.

"In view of this, I am concerned not only for our Filipino boxers, but also all our athletes regarding their security and future.

"I would like to inform you that I am in the process of conceptualizing a House Bill for our athletes that will provide a fund for medical, pension, education, insurance, and other assistance, similar to that of the MOWELFUND for those in the movie industry.

"In this regard, may I know if you can give inputs or suggestions for the realization of the House Bill?

"Thank you.

"Very truly yours,

"(SGD.) Atty. Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.
Congressman, Lone District, Iloilo City"

Gladly, I will when called upon to have coffee with you, Your Honor. Just say when and I'll come running.

***

From Hermie Rivera, the maker of boxing world champions Luisito Espinosa and Morris East.

"Dear Al,

"After a hugely successful super fight wherein Manny Pacquiao eked out a controversial draw against Juan Manuel Marquez, boxing nuts clamored ceaselessly for a return go between these two exciting featherweight mitt slingers.

"But the keenly anticipated rematch failed to get the nod of HBO, which holds the contract of both fighters.

"Instead, Pacquiao dukes it out once more with Marco Antonio Barrera whom he pummeled to submission in one of the most exciting matches staged at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, last November 16. (Dennis Principe indeed scooped the mickey out of the opposition to include the so-called 'insiders' of big-time boxing.)

"So, unless one of them gets struck by a giant meteor, everything points to a Barrera-Pacquiao II, a truly tantalizing fistic happening demanded by their promoters and rabid followers.

"Just how much Pacquiao wants this fight is best evidenced by his early departure from his 'extra-curriculars' and plunging posthaste into training at his GenSan digs. Quite unusual when one thinks that the calendared rematch is a good three months away.

"An early September trip to his L.A. haunts where his guru Freddie Roach awaits him just about completes his pre-fight Barrera meeting.

"Metal plate in Barrera's head or brain and all (not to mention the prior beating he got from the Cotabato 'marvel'), I am once again picking the would-be Mexican lawyer to beat Manny. Nothing really against our own champ but my gut feel (here we go again) tells me that Barrera has what it takes to turn it around this time.

"True, Pacquiao boxes faster and, decidedly, has more power, but can he land his 'sockdolager' sans his 99-cents socks?

"Cordially,

"(SGD.) Hermie Rivera"

If there's one guy who is as stubborn as Bombolini, the character so brilliantly essayed by the late Anthony Quinn in the classic war film, "The Secret of Santa Vittoria," it is Hermie Rivera.

You tell Hermie that Pacquiao ought to be the winner over Marquez in their fight last May 9, Hermie will say you must have watched a different contest.

You tell Hermie that Jay Leno is a great comedian, Hermie will shoot back, "You mean he's better than George W. Bush?"

You tell Hermie that Marcos lost to Cory in the 1986 presidential derby, Hermie will say he will offer himself to Al-Qaida for beheading if you can prove that.

With Hermie, switch to safe topics, like his brother Melchor's world-class *kalderetang kambing*, when he starts to say Joe de Venecia is the nation's best House Speaker of all time.

When he's in full throttle, you will never win against Hermie, you will never see him budge one inch in a verbal skirmish. Ask Quinito Henson. Or Ed Picson of dwIC. Or even Edwin Sese of 918 Sports Radio.

Oh, yes, Hermie will always raise his voice, but never his arms. Only one man can make him surrender: Milton Alingod, the coolest press secretary this country has ever had.

That's why now that Hermie has told us yet again that Barrera will beat Pacquiao should a rematch be held (never dare tell him the return bout is still hanging in the air), don't make the mistake of disputing him unless you are ready to lose your cool, if not your sanity, if you know what I mean.

But don't get me wrong, fellas. No, Hermie isn't a KJ. Will never be. In fact, hours after Pacquiao had beaten Barrera by an 11th-round knockout, Hermie almost had me floored when he called and said, "I had just checked in at the Manila Hotel. Know why? I just called up my house and you know what the maid told me?"

What?

"Some people shouting *Mabuhay si* Pacquiao have not stopped pelting my house with tomatoes."

Now get this: If GMA becomes too serious about her tax schemes that she suddenly gets too uptight at her weekly Cabinet meeting, who you gonna call?

Why, none other than Hermie Barrera…oops, Hermie Rivera *pala*.

SPORTSWATCH

SMASHing Assumptionistas Aug. 21

THE ASSUMPTION High School Class of 1988 is holding a one day badminton tournament billed "SMASHing Assumptionistas" on Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Yonex Philippines Badminton Club, Liberty Center, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. The event, which is open to all Assumption Alumnae, is part of Assumption Alumnae Association's fund-raising drive and is in line with the Class of 1988's commitment to help the Assumption Mission Schools. The tournament is open also to other players, male or female, provided they play with an alumna. Tournament fee is P1,600 per pair. Those interested are advised to register early as the tourney will have limited slots. For details, contact Kristin Reyes at kmlreyes@yahoo.com or at 09178966422.

Lynx Cup Novice series launching

FUTURE stars in local motor sports will be introduced during the party formally launching the 2004 TRS Ford Lynx Cup Novice series at the Teak Bar and Bistro, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. The winner of the 2004 C! Top Driver Challenge will also be announced during the launch of the series organized by the Tuason Racing School by Standard Insurance, Goodyear, Petron Ultron, Petron XCS, Ambi Pur, and sponsored by Red Horse, Adidas, Casio G-Shock, Oakley, Brother's Burger, K&N Filters, H&R Springs, Options Unlimited, Racegear Pitshop, Octane Racewear with media partners C! Magazine, Trapik.com, Motorista.com.ph, Philippine Star and Autoextreme. The Top Driver will be chosen from among the finalists of the challenge: Randy Paray, Jules Arambulo and Mark Romualdez. The one-make, three-leg series using TRS-prepared Ford Lynx Touring Cars will be held at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, beginning on Aug. 21 to 22. The next two rounds are slated for Sept. 25 to 26 and Oct. 23 to 24.

Fernandez new Patafa chair

PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok is expected to get an unprecedented fresh four-year mandate when the athletics body holds its election tomorrow at the Wah Yuen Restaurant on Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila. His re-election will usher in Go's 13th year as Patafa top honcho, having sat as president in 1991 when the late Gov. Jose Sering moved up to serve as chair of the board. To be formally installed as the new board chair is Immigration commissioner and sportsman Alipio Fernandez, whose entry into Patafa is expected to energize its policy directions and goals in the years to come. As former Dagupan City mayor for three consecutive terms, Fernandez transformed his turf into a sports mecca north of Manila by hosting several prominent sports events including the Asian Junior Volleyball Championships, PBA out-of-town matches and the national amateur boxing championships. Former chair, lawyer Nicanor Sering, will take the post of vice-president for training and selection. All other positions, GTK said, will remain unchanged.

Tolentino tops all-generals' shootfest

MULTITITLED Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, Philippine Army's chief of staff, added another feather to his cap by ruling the all-generals' shooting circuit Saturday. He won four Standard Pistol Events to clinch the Top Gun title in the Level III 6th Game of the Generals Practical Shooting Competitions inside Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City. M/G Tolentino, 53-year-old Philippine Military Academy alumni of Class 1974, tallied 323.6468 match points over runner-up and teammate Brig. Gen. Efren Orbon (274.4507MP) and third placer Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin (246.396MP), to win the Standard Pistol Event Top 16 Aggregate crown.

Dr. Pablo Torre Foundation golfest

DR. HECTOR L. Torre announced yesterday that the 7th Dr. Pablo Torre Foundation 36-hole Golf Tournament will be held at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club, Barangay Bata, Bacolod City starting today till Sunday. The event, one of the major activities of the Golden Anniversary of the Riverside Medical Center, honors the memory of the late Dr. Pablo O. Torre, the founder of the hospital, now bearing his name, and the Riverside College.

July 10, 2004
12
16
20
7

JANSPORT SUPPORTS TIGERS

JanSport, the No. 1 backpack brand in the USA and the Philippines, is supporting the campaign of the UST Growling Tigers in the 67th UAAP season. The Tigers are shown with Ruby Palma (middle front row) of Jansports.

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THE OLYMPICS

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Catch all the action from Aug 13 to 29 on NBN 4

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SuperFerry backs women's football

SUPERFERRY, the shipping company of the football-loving Aboitiz clan, has agreed to sponsor the Philippine Football Federation's Under-19 Women's tournament.

The event, set Aug. 15 to 22, will now be called The SuperFerry Under-19 Women's Football Championship.

Domeka Garamendi, Deputy General Secretary of the PFF, announced yesterday that five of the 12 provincial teams will be ferried to Metro Manila by SuperFerry.

The women's football extravaganza—hosted by the Marikina City government and coordinated by the Marikina City Football Association (MCFA) of which Mayor Marides C. Fernando is chair—is the 1st PFF tournament for girls in this age category.

Mark wins 2 games

FILIPINO GM-candidate Mark Paragua posted back-to-back wins to share the lead after the second round of the 8th Genova Individual International Open Chess Championships yesterday in Genova, Italy.

Paragua defeated Charles-Roy Reiser of Germany and compatriot NM-candidate Roland Salvador to match the output of countrymen IMs Ronald Bancod, Yves Rañola and Joseph Sanchez and NM Rolly Martinez, GM Lazic Miroljub of Yugoslavia, GM Erald Dervishi of Albania, IM Milan MRDJA of Croatia, IM Nikita Maiorov of Belarus and IM Mario Lanzani of Italy. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Tribu Sugbu rallies, foils CdO Stars' upset bid in NBC

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Marvin Mercado played the spoiler's role to the hilt as Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) came from behind Tuesday to foil the upset-conscious Cagayan de Oro Stars, 84-70, in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) finals at the packed Xavier University gym here.

Mercado exploded for 10 of his 11 points in the second half to provide the spark for the breakaway of the Tribes of Lito Gilliamac Jr., Alber Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado after trailing 54-56 at the half, enabling them to remain on top of the South Division with a 5-1 win-loss card.

It was another frustrating day for the Stars, who led by as many as nine points, 32-23, only to fall to their sixth straight loss in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Skygo Motorcycles, Supercat, Accel and Molten.

"It was a very physical game. I'm glad the players showed composure down the stretch," Tribes coach Al Solis said.

The 6-foot-6 Mercado added eight rebounds and three blocked shots and was named the game's best player. Tribu skipper Ruben dela Rosa was disqualified with 1:30 left after repeatedly contesting the calls and bumping into referee Lito Contreras.

Jojo Tangkay, playing with an injured knee, was used sparingly by Solis and had two triples in 10 minutes of action.

The scores:

CEBU 84—Grijaldo 15, Mercado 11, Bucao 11, Larong 10, Sanders 7, Tangkay 6, Lanete 5, Dela Rosa 5, Concha 4, Licanda 3, Elim 3, Alamacin 2, Galinato 2, Gamboa 0, Piodo 0.

CDO 70—Navales 11, Alfeche 14, Alcantara 13, Sese 6, Numeran 6, Culdora 5, Pong 4, Lantong 1, Royo 0, Tagarda 0, Jabagat 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 33 36, 59-57, 84-70.

Tickets for All-Star tiff all but gone

By June Navarro

CEBU CITY—As in the blockbuster Barangay Ginebra-Red Bull Barako championship showdown, tickets are becoming a headache for the organizers of the PBA All-Star Game on Sunday at the Cebu City Coliseum here.

Ringside tickets were already sold out as early as Wednesday afternoon, forcing Cebuano PBA fans to look for available seats in the lower box and bleacher sections.

"Tickets are selling like hotcakes. Before the week ends, we expect that even the SRO (standing room only) tickets will be sold out," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

The slightly refurbished Cebu City Coliseum, venue of countless PBA out-of-town sorties, has a seating capacity of just over 5,000. The PBA will sell around a thousand SRO tickets within the lower box and bleacher sections to allow Cebuano die-hards to watch their basketball idols in the flesh.

Eala also guaranteed tight security within the perimeter of the coliseum with the city government of Cebu City augmenting the police force in the area.

Aside from a dozen uniformed men keeping an eye on the players, Eala and some of the officials are also under protective custody of Armalite-wielding body guards.

"The local government is fully supporting the All-Star and the local officials are making sure that security is a paramount concern," said Eala.

Prior to the PBA All-Star North versus South encounter, majority of the skills event—three-point shootout, obstacle and trick shot challenge—will be held at the Mandaue Sports Center on Saturday.

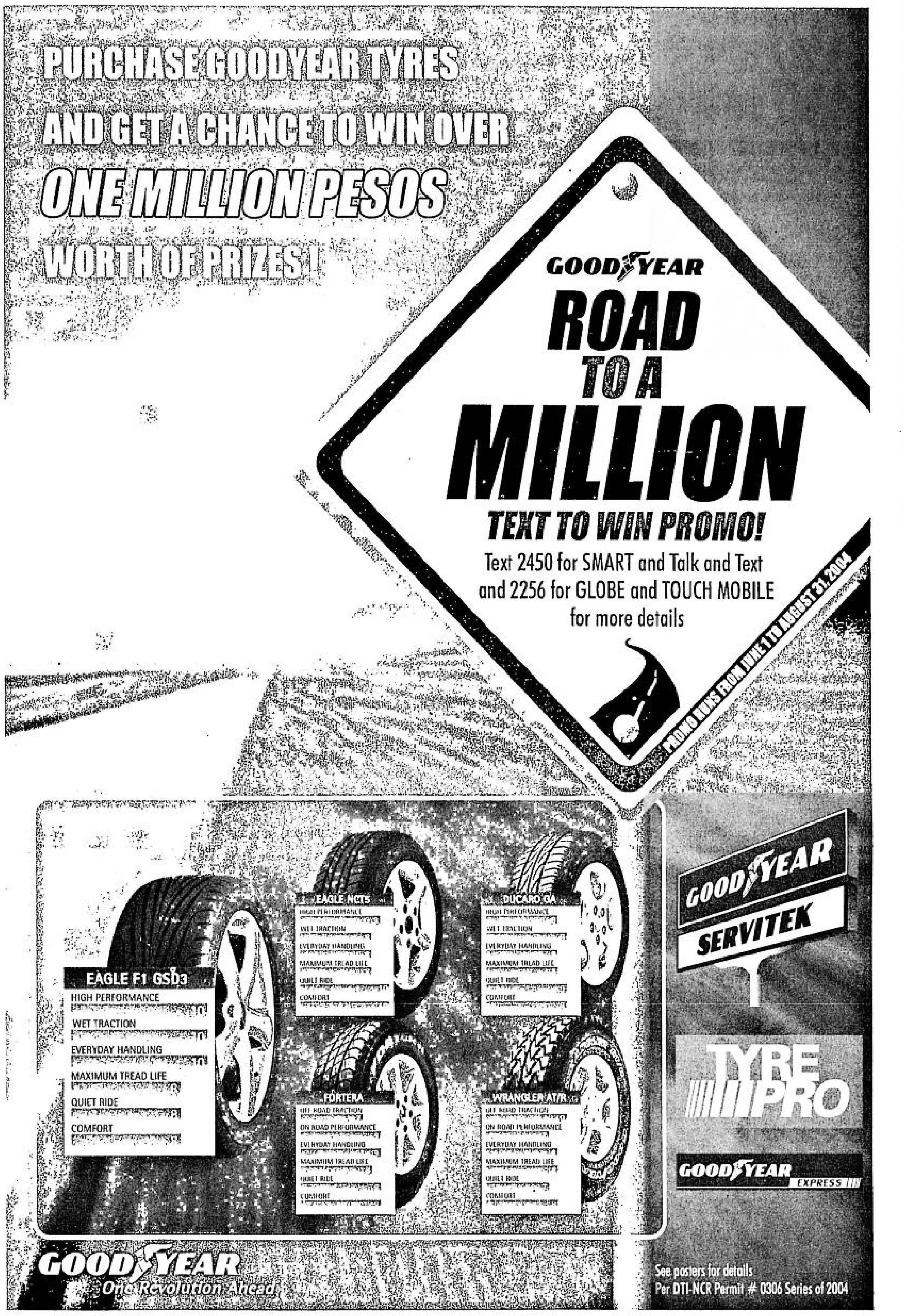
The top four finishers of the three-point shootout will challenge some of the greatest PBA marksmen of all time in the Legends Shootout Challenge the following day at the Cebu City Coliseum.

US five bombs Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey—With the crowd jeering and whistling, the US Olympic basketball team pulled away in the fourth quarter for an 80-68 victory Tuesday night to cap an anxious day in this ancient city and an eventful pre-Olympic tour.

The American players awoke to learn that bombs had exploded at two tourist hotels and a fuel depot a few miles (kilometers) from their hotel, but team and US government officials reassured them it would be safe to go ahead with the game. *AP*

BURLINGTON BACKS TIGERS
Burlington is again backing the UST growling Tigers in their UAAP title quest this year. Burlington, the leading sports socks which recently came out with Shock XT, specially designed socks to prevent injuries, has been supporting the Tigers since their four-peat years. Lala Buenaflor of Burlington poses with the Tigers.



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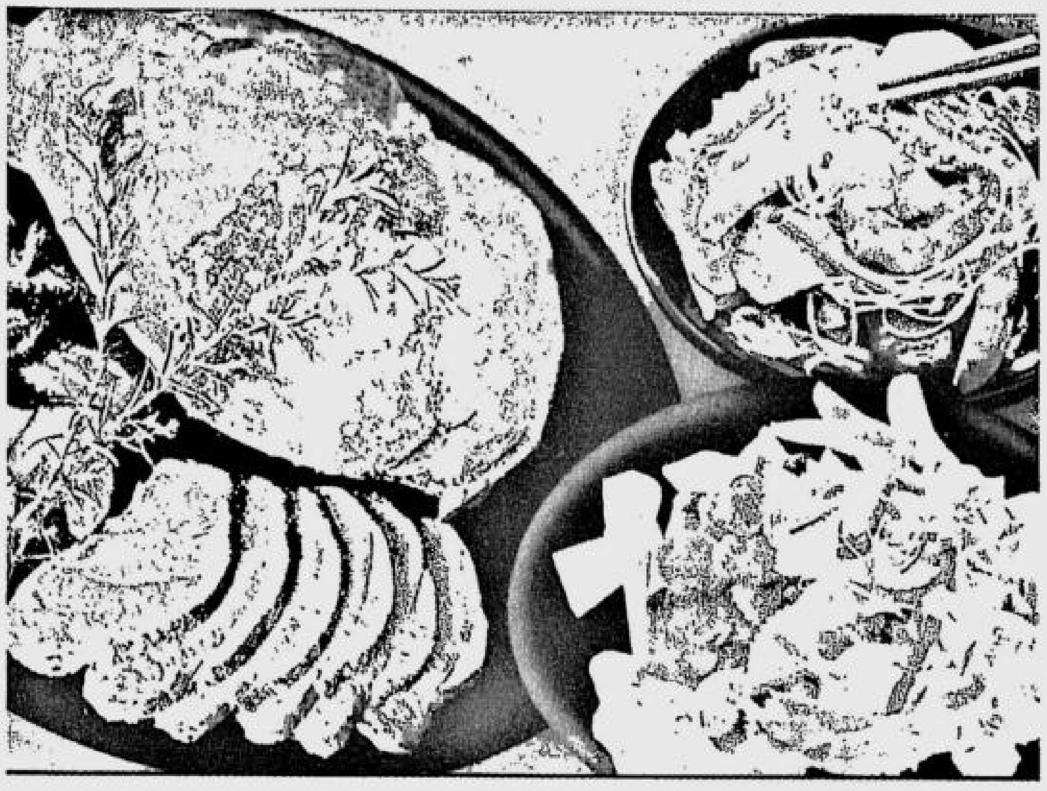
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Roast Carving and Seafood Festival at City Garden Suites



THERE'S good news for people who crave for sumptuous yet affordable food and nice ambience. The City Garden Suites' Café Miranda Restaurant features the "Roast Carving Festival" for the months of August and September for only P199 net during lunch. This buffet offering includes soup, salad, fruits, a wide array of side dishes, and the finest cut of meat scrumptiously flavored for your liking. A special dinner buffet featuring an international selection for only P250 net is available from Mondays to Thursdays. Another great buffet offering is the Seafood Festival, available every Friday for only P250 net during dinner. Live piano entertainment creates an atmosphere of romance, warmth and ease.

Known for excellent service, the City Garden Suites is also a preferred venue for any kind of gathering be it a social or corporate affair, and offers various packages at very affordable rates. City Garden Suites is conveniently located at 1158 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations call 536-1451 or email cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com or bqt_cgs@citygardenhotels.com

The Bellevue Hotel celebrates French wines

THE BELLEVUE Hotel recently hosted a wine tasting affair that featured exquisite French wines. The monthly event was emceed by premier party host Johnny Litton and held at the hangout of Alabang's chic set, the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Center. Choice wines by Anthony's Wine Cellar included Dourthe Cuvee 202 White, Dourthe Cuvee 202 Red, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Beau Mayne and Beau Mayne White. A feast of shrimp tempura, beef kebabs, choice canapés, cheeses and desserts accompanied the excellent wine list. Lucky guests also brought home special prizes such as wines and gift certificates from the hotel.

"At The Bellevue, dining is more than a pleasurable sensory experience, it's a celebration of the gift of food and drink. Through our food festivals, unique buffet preparations and wine tasting sessions, we share with guests this consciousness of flavors and tastes," The Bellevue Hotel general manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata said.

Apart from appetizing fare, guests enjoyed breathtaking night time views of the metropolis as well as pleasant conversation with Alabang's VIPs. The Bellevue Hotel continues to be the core of activity in the southern Metro Manila area-the place to see and be seen. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

JOHNNY Litton with Johnny Chan

Everyday Fiesta at Fiesta San Miguel

ENJOY the month of August at Fiesta San Miguel, Dusit Hotel Nikko as it offers you a spread of delectable food offerings and entertainment. Celebrate and have a good time at Fiesta San Miguel's M n' B - Men n' Beer every Tuesday night. Savor unlimited freshly brewed beer for three hours all night long for only P270++.

Available daily is the restaurant's Happy Hour, a beer-all-you-can from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. pegged at P270++. And from 9 p.m. onwards enjoy two cold mugs of freshly brewed beer for the price of one. That's double treat for all beer enthusiasts!

Sundays is Family Day at Fiesta San Miguel starting Aug. 15. Enjoy a brunch buffet spread of favorite Filipino cuisines pegged at P750++ for adults and P375++ for kids aged 3-12 years old. Different activities and entertainment are lined up for the kids' enjoyment free of charge. On Aug. 15, their creative talents will be unleashed when Filstar Distributors Corporation shares the secrets of Baloon Twisting, Airblo by Blopens and the Art of Scrapbooking. On Aug. 22, kids will be regaled with storytelling and mascot appearances by Enchanted Kingdom. For queries, call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333 local 3308

PCSO WORKSHOP AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL
The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) recently had its 4th Supervisory Development Course Track I Seminar Workshop at the Aguinaldo Ballroom of the Executive Plaza Hotel. Shown in the photo are the participants of the seminar with the administrative department manager DM Roger C. Ramirez (seated at the center, left side) and Dr. August E. Salonga, (seated at the center, right side), the training's resource speaker. Also in photo is Renjie Musni (third from the right side, standing), Executive Plaza Hotel account manager.

VERANDAH CAFÉ'S SANDWICHES AND SPECIALTIES
Enjoy a delightful offering of just about every kind of sandwich you can imagine... all meat sandwiches, vegetarian sandwiches, roast beef sandwiches and more! All sandwiches are inclusive of one glass of chilled juice from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Available for the whole month of August.

Wine and dine

Wine of the Month - Corte Viola Prosecco (White wine)

A unique wine with a color of the golden sunrise blended with flavors of fruity lemon and passion fruit made at the Northwest of Italy in the famous vineyards of Veneto. Fresh and effervescent on the taste. P1,200 per bottle, P180 per glass on outlets and P200 per glass on Room Service.

Merlot Veneto (Red Wine)

A unique Italian Merlot with a deep burgundy color exhibits rich ripe berry and toasty oak aromas nurtured on the Northeast hills of Italy in the famous vineyards of Veneto. P1,200 per bottle, P180 per glass on outlets and P200 per glass on Room Service.

Café Uno's Continental Flavors

Go through a tasteful journey and feast on the mouth-watering continental cuisine sure to satisfy every taste and preferences. A lunch buffet offered daily from Aug. 1 to 31, at P500 per person.

Lobby Lounge's Happy Hour

Order two bottles of beer and have peanuts and your favorite pork or beef jerkies for free! Available from 6 p.m. onwards from Aug. 1 to 31.

And then there were three

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 7's "30 Days" competition for former stars has whittled down its list of finalists to just three—**Raven Villanueva, Dino Guevara** and **Biboy Enriquez.**

The latest to leave the show that offers a second crack at stardom were **Jackie Forster, Jana Victoria** and **Diego Castro.**

We don't know how this tilt *really* works, but Raven, for one, doesn't strike us as much more gifted than Jana. And Biboy, for two, is less secure as a performer than, say, Diego.

Well, when you join a contest, you put yourself entirely in the hands of the judges, who may or may not know what they're doing.

In any case, we trust that, despite their having been dropped, Jackie, Jana and Diego have benefited enough from their exposure on "30 Days" to enjoy a second spring in their show biz careers, even if they didn't top the talent tilt.

Jackie was eliminated before Jana and Diego—not, we think, because she wasn't talented, and certainly not because she lacked stellar temperament, but perhaps because her hefty build worked against her.

If Jackie struggles hard to get back to fighting form, therefore, producers and viewers would most likely give her a second chance.

It would also help a lot if Jackie got over her reputation for being contentious and even combative.

It's good to stand up for your rights, but show biz needs cooperative talents to get the work done fast and economically. So, if the new Jackie passes muster in this regard, she could get more offers to perform.

Diego Castro has also come a long way from his vague and skittish projection when he first joined show biz. He didn't come off as serious, focused and hardworking then, so his career eventually dipped after the controversy involving him and Raven.

Now that he's older, Diego has acquired greater depth, but he still needs to generate more intensity to do well as a dramatic lead. Now that he's been given his second chance, he should go for it—all the way.

As for Jana Victoria, when she made her start in the movies as a "bold dramatic" actress, it was the "bold" element that people focused on, and the dramatic factor came off as an afterthought.

On "30 Days," however, Jana has shown that she doesn't need to take off her clothes to make viewers pay attention to her. Of all the female finalists in the competition, she did best in the show's dramatic exercises.

We trust producers will give Jana a chance to put her new sensitivity and range to work on TV and in movies in the months to come.

As for Dino, Raven and Biboy, may the best and most deserving talent win. And we trust that connections have nothing to do with the choice of winner.

In any case, viewers will have the last word on that score in the coming months, won't they? So, despite possible machinations by whomever, everything will clarify itself properly and justly in the end.

'Anacondas'

ON THE first "Anaconda" movie, animatronics were the name of the game. But major strides have been taken in computer-generated creatures since then, so the sequel, "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," makes great use of CGI to bring its huge snakes to pulsating life.

In the new thriller, a scientific expedition is sent to Borneo to search for a rare blood orchid. A powerful pharmaceutical company hopes that the orchid can be used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality. But the expedition team discovers that the orchid is being zealously and jealously guarded by giant snakes that derive their enormous strength from the rare blooms.

And the monstrous snakes are also extremely hungry and have giant appetites to sate. This is where the members of the expedition team come in handy. Yikes!

'Rock the Walls'

THE ASIAN Social Institute and the Department of Tourism, in cooperation with the National Commissions for Culture and the Arts and Viva Records Corp., present "Rock the Walls," a free concert in celebration of the fifth International Youth Day at 7 p.m. on Aug. 13 at Clamshell 1, Intramuros, Manila.

Performers include **Cynthia Alexander, Fuseboxx, Silent Sanctuary, Tanglaw Singing, Crabnebula, Stringskin and Lana J., Stonefree** and **Mongols.** Visit www.iyd2004.org or telefax 373-3347.

The miracle in Tintin

From page A22

Says MTV Philippines marketing director **Chris Lopez,** "With MTV Style Awards, we aim to recognize—particularly here in the Philippines—the style movers and shakers of this generation."

Awards will be given out in eight people's choice categories: Most Influential International Artist, Favorite MTV Rock Style, Favorite MTV Diva Style, Favorite Stylish Leading Lady, Favorite Stylish Leading Man, Favorite Stylish Power Player-Male, Favorite Stylish Power Player-Female, and Favorite Stylish Dynamic Duo.

The MTV Style Council—an exclusive committee of top fashion editors, journalists, stylists, designers, photographers and models assisted by MTV—will decide on the jury awards, which include the Revolutionary Designer of the Year, Fashion Model of the Year—Male, Fashion Model of the Year—Female, Best in Suit, Red Carpet Style, Most Stylish Bachelor, Most Stylish IT Girl, Most Stylish Music Video of the Year, and Fashion Photographer of the Year Awards.

Venue 108

I HAD a blast at the opening of the newest bar and resto on the Timog Strip, Venue 108. It's just a stone's throw away from GMA-7 and ABS-CBN 2 so I won't be surprised if it will soon be the favorite hangout of show biz personalities.

Some of the celebrities I spotted at Venue 108's grand bash were Vice Mayor **Herbert Bautista** who did the ribbon cutting, **Melissa Mendez, Maegan Aguilar, Katarina Perez** and **Kier Legazpi.**

No cover charge, free entertainment, and beer at P25 plus affordable yet good food. I felt instantly at home so I think I will make Venue 108 my official hangout when I'm in the QC area. Their slogan says it all: Dine, groove and relax.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

Carmina...

From page A23

ing a movie that had been shelved for a long time.

"I didn't know that Zoren was living near my village," Carmina recalled. "When he learned that I had just moved to my new apartment, he started helping me out."

They started going out on group dates until she found herself going out with Zoren alone.

"If you ask me when our anniversary is, I really don't know," Carmina said. "Everything just happened."

Being herself

Carmina said she and Zoren do have plans to settle down but they don't see it happening in the near future.

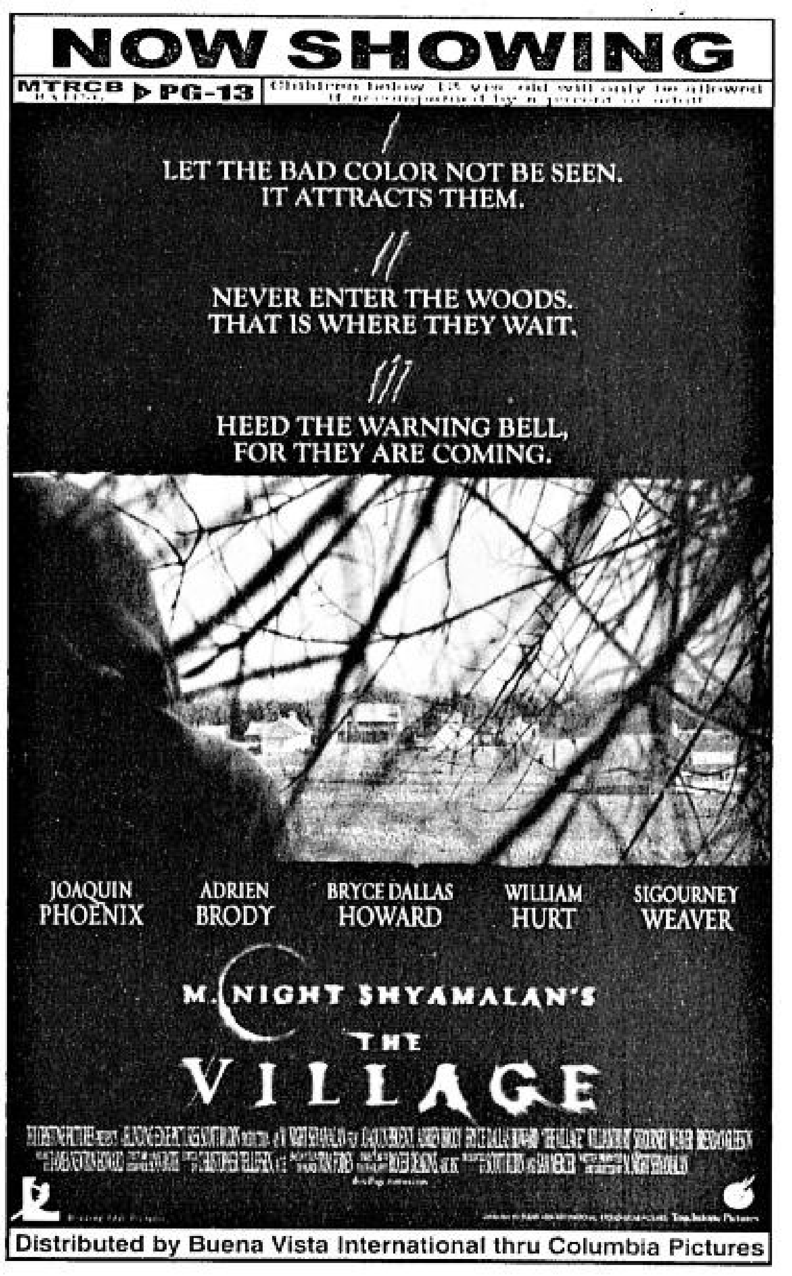
"I feel very secure with him and I know that he is the one for me so there is really no hurry to get married," she said.

Recently, GMA Network asked Carmina to co-host the daily morning talk show, "Sis," with Janice de Belen while the latter's sister and regular co-host, Gelli de Belen, was vacationing in Canada.

"I guess GMA liked what they saw and asked me to host it on a regular basis together with Janice and Gelli," Carmina said.

"This one really scares me because I am doing it on my own," Carmina said of hosting "All About You." "I have no co-hosts."

The only concession she asked from the production staff is that she be allowed to be herself, with no profound and intellectual discussions and highfalutin words because, as Carmina pointed out, "it's just not me."


LET THE BAD COLOR NOT BE SEEN.
IT ATTRACTS THEM.
NEVER ENTER THE WOODS.
THAT IS WHERE THEY WAIT.
HEED THE WARNING BELL,
FOR THEY ARE COMING.
JOAQUIN PHOENIX
ADRIEN BRODY
BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD
WILLIAM HURT
SIGOURNEY WEAVER
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THE VILLAGE

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Jandara
at Robinsons Movieworld
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SYNOPSIS:
Jan Dara is a film set in the moody and turbulent Thailand of the 1930s. Jan Dara is the name of a Thai young man whose earliest memories recall his own father having sex with his childhood nanny. In this lopsided and obsessive world, At the tender age of thirteen, he was cast out of his comfortable but troubled household after his stepsister accused him of rape Years later Jan Dara returns home to seek revenge on his father by outdoing his father's sexual conquests and making him be witness to his triumphs.
MTRCB Rating: R18
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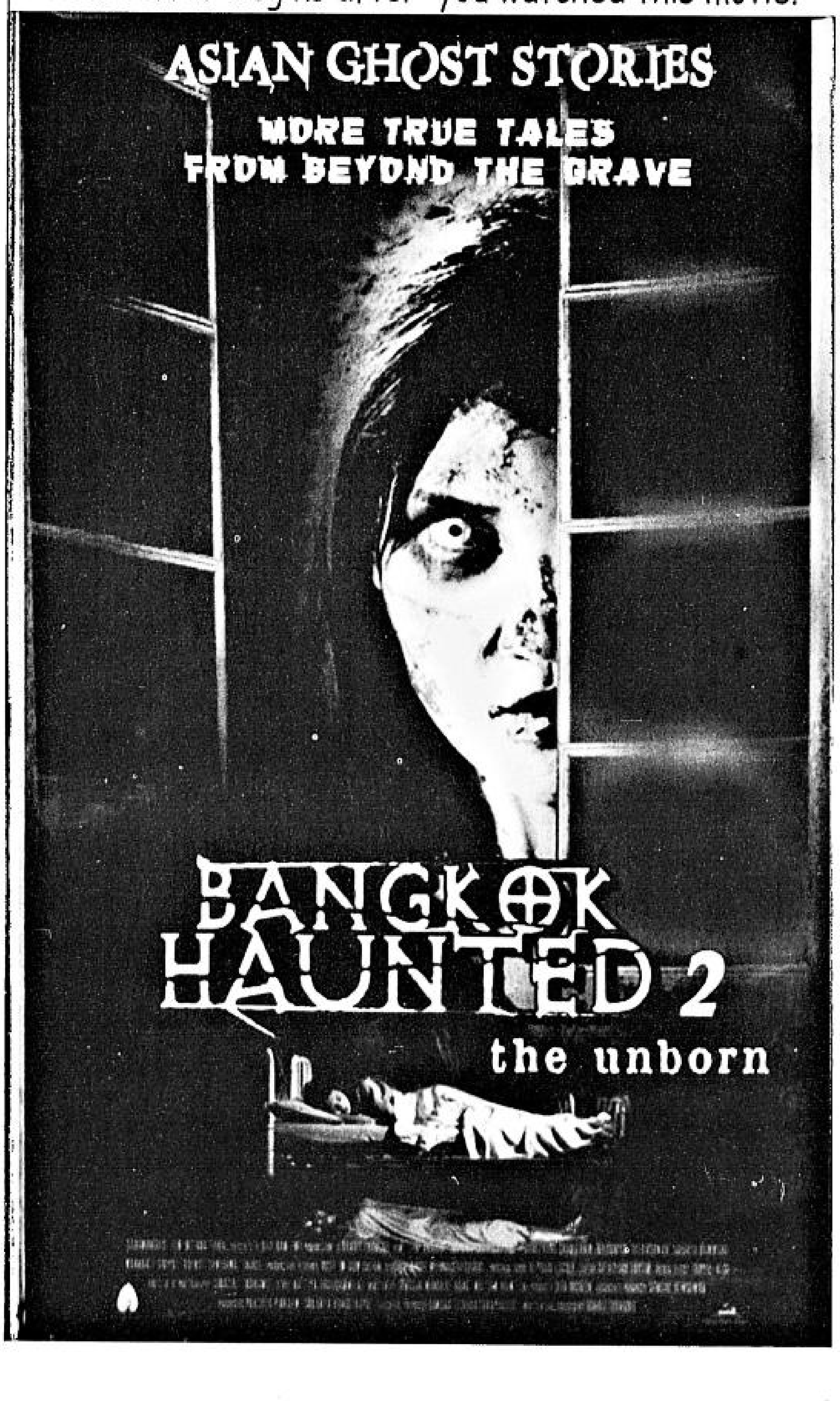
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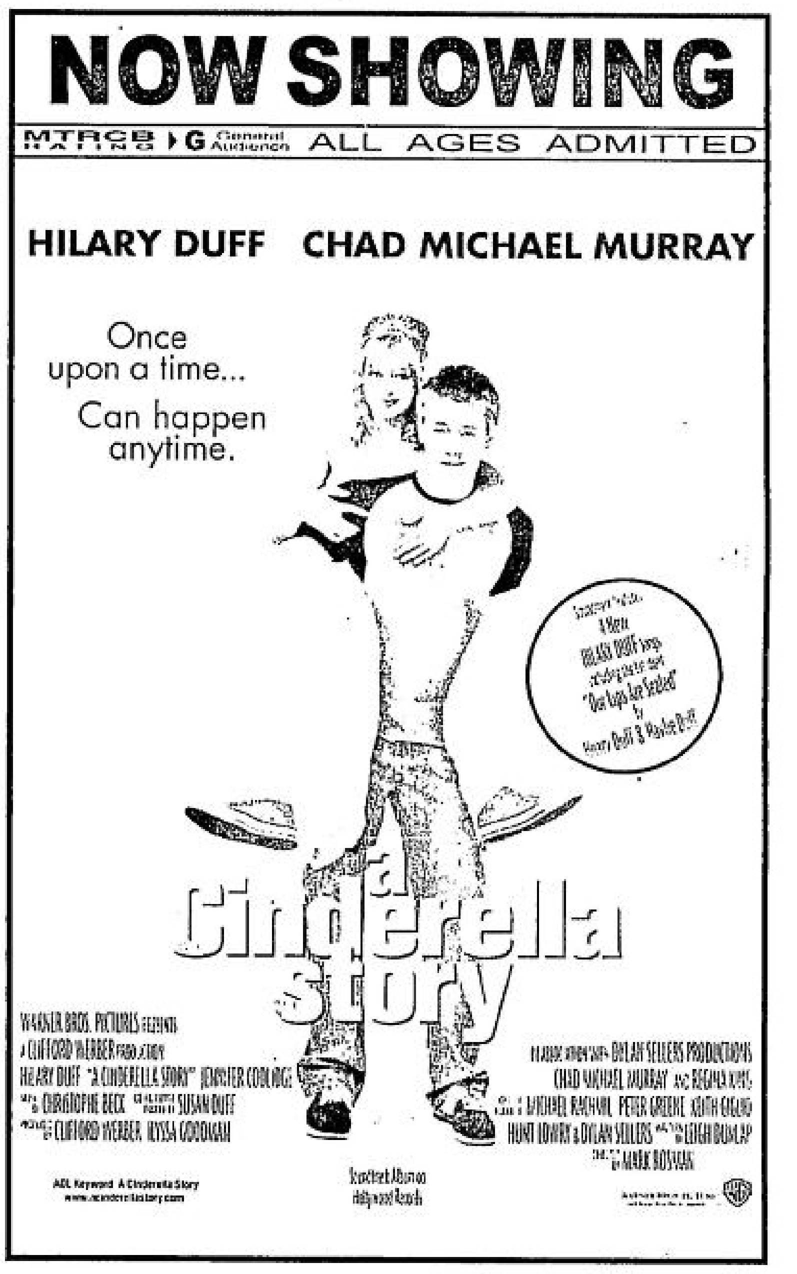
MORE TRUE TALES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
the unborn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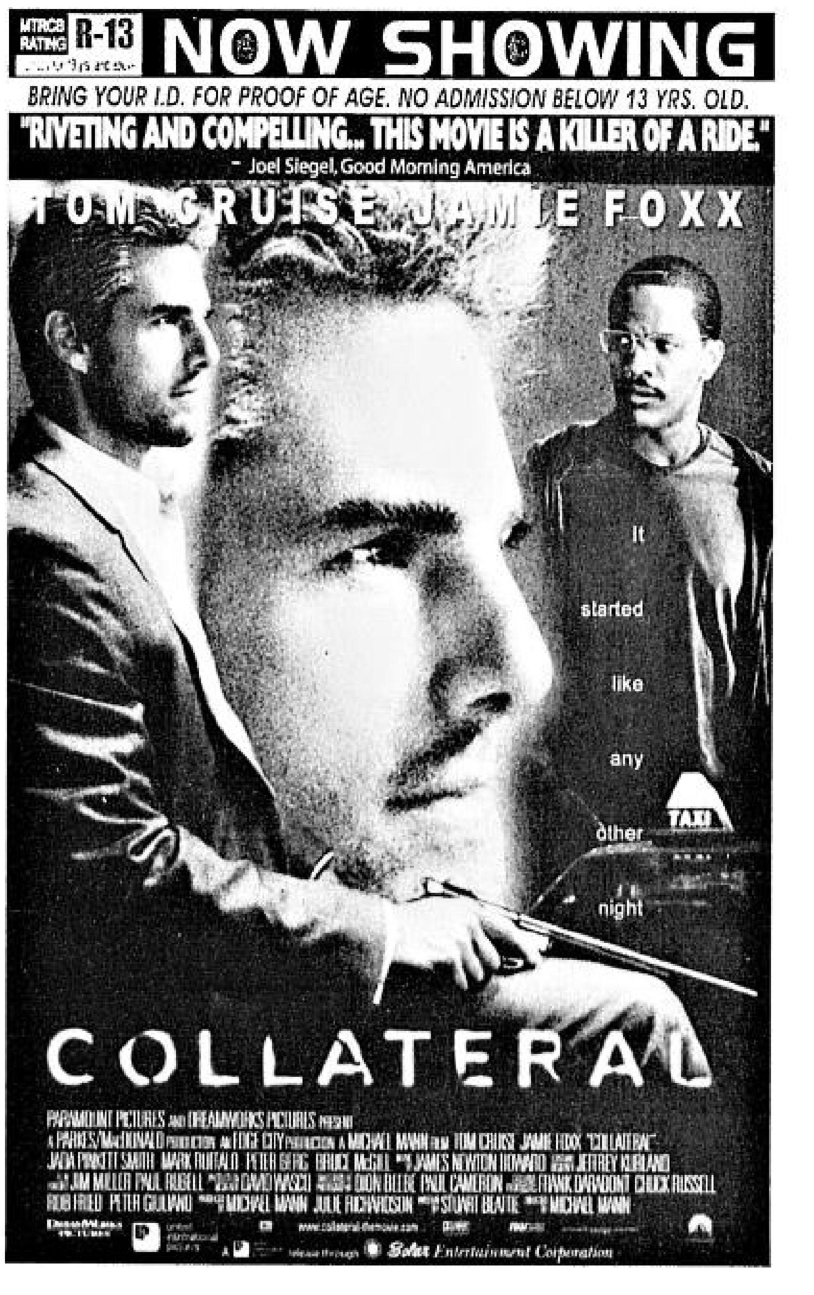
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The miracle in Tintin

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THE FOLLOWING is a letter from **Tintin Bersola-Babao:**

"Dear Dolly,

"Thanks so much from **Julius** and me for plugging our book launch. Want to share with you and your readers the joys and woes of my pregnancy.

"Being pregnant for the first time is like a roller coaster ride. Healthwise, sometimes I feel okay enough to go to work, wake up at 3:30 a.m. and host 'MUB,' sometimes it's really a struggle. The worst time of the day is during late afternoon because that's when I experience the peak of my morning sickness.

"I'm always sleepy and I easily feel exhausted. Because of this, there have been many changes in my life lately. One: giving up coffee which, as you know, has been part of my morning ritual for many years. No tea,no diet cola, no artificial sweetener, no raw oysters or anything raw except salads.

"Before, Julius and I would enjoy late dinners after his 'TV Patrol' newscast and would sometimes see a late night movie. Now no more of that during weekdays.

"But I have no regrets, of course, because it's all for the baby. Good thing I don't smoke, I'm not a drinker, too. I'm a waterholic so you can imagine the frequency of my bathroom trips.

"As for Julius, oh, this is the part I'm so excited about! He will surely make a wonderful daddy. Every chance that he gets, from the moment he wakes up to any moment of the day, and before we sleep, he kisses my tummy and talks to our baby. Julius bought several CDs—'Baby Bach,' 'Baby Mozart,' etc.

"And this is the most touching part, *siya ang laging nagyayaya na panoorin namin* many times *yung* VHS tape *ng* ultrasound ng baby *namin na ang lakas sumipa at ang likot-likot na.* And to think I'm only entering my second trisem!

"But you should see the ultrasound! It's really amazing to watch it over and over. Till now I can't believe that there is a miracle happening inside me. God is wonderful! God is good!

"We meet people, in restaurants, at the malls, and they all express their utmost joy for us.

"Isn't that touching? This early, dear Baby Babao is also a part of our followers' lives. And we're only to glad to share this joy with them.

"Love, Tintin."

MTV Style Awards

FOR the first time ever, MTV Philippines will bring together the country's coolest and classiest personalities for a night of funk and fashion at the MTV Style Awards. The country's favorite music channel will honor the country's purveyors of standout style in fashion, music, movies, television, business, sports and politics in an ultra-chic event on Sept. 14 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

THE MIRACLE/ A21

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GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	THE VILLAGE	11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
2	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:30, 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00
3	GARFIELD	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4	COLLATERAL	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.35, 12:50, 3.05, 5:20, 7:35, 9.50
6	THE VILLAGE	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
7	SYLVIA	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
8	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	CATWOMAN	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10	I, ROBOT	1:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
2	GARFIELD	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
3	THE VILLAGE	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
4	SYLVIA	1:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:00
5	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	11:30, 1:30, 3.30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	COLLATERAL	0:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	I, ROBOT	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE VILLAGE	12:15, 2.50, 5:25, 8.00, 10:35
4	COLLATERAL	10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6.15, 9.00
5	GARFIELD	0:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9.00
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35
7	A CINDERELLA STORY	10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 9:00
8	KARELASYON	10 50, 12:50, 2.50, 4 50, 6.50, 9.00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	COLLATERAL	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30
2	THE VILLAGE	10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4	GARFIELD	10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30
5	A CINDERELLA STORY	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6 00, 8:30
6	CATWOMAN	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
7	KARELASYON	11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4 45, 6:40, 8 35
8	I, ROBOT	11:00, 1:25, 3 50, 6:15, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 THE VILLAGE

CAINTA 240-4661
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 COLLATERAL

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 COLLATERAL
2 GARFIELD
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 THE VILLAGE
5 MAKAMUNDO

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 WEREWOLF
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 COLLATERAL
2 THE VILLAGE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 WEREWOLF

STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 PERLAS
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 DEAD PEOPLE
5 SPARTAN
6 THE VILLAGE

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 COLLATERAL
2 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 THE VILLAGE
5 KARELASYON
6 A CINDERELLA STORY

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 COLLATERAL
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALONG CAME POLLY
4 WEREWOLF
5 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
6 PERLAS

ILOILO 336-8070/78
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2 THE PRINCE AND ME
3 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4 EVE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 PERLAS

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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	THE VILLAGE	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50	GP-13
2	THE CINDERELLA STORY	11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:20	GP
3	GARFIELD	10:50, 12:55, 3:10, 5:15, 7:25, 10:00	GP
4	COLLATERAL	11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 10:00	R-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movie	Rating	Times
GARFIELD	GP	12:30,2:20,4:10, 6:00,7:50,9:40
CINDERELLA STORY	GP	12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	PG13	12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00
COLLATERAL	R13	11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10
SYLVIA	R13	12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20
THE VILLAGE	PG13	12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

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star group of cinemas movie guide
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Tel. No. 726.61.50
- Now That I Have You
- The Village
- Karelasyon

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
- Dead People
- Karelasyon
- Now That I Have You
- Catwoman
- The Village
- Collateral

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Movie	Times
3	Dolby	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	12:30pm 2:30 pm 4:30pm 6:30 pm 8:30 pm
4	SDDS	COLLATERAL	12:40 pm 3:25 pm 6:10 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts	THE VILLAGE	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	KA-RELASYON	12:05 pm 2:15 pm 4:25 pm 6:35 pm 8:45 pm
7	Dolby	CINDERELLA STORY	12:25 pm 2:35 pm 4:45 pm 6:55 pm 9:05 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 12	UAAP : Ateneo vs. UE
Aug 13	NIGHT OF THE CHAMPIONS: THE REPEAT
Aug 14	UAAP : FEU vs. La Salle
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE
Aug 18	Bench Fashion Show
Aug 21	AVON Sales Convention
Aug 22	UAAP : Ateneo vs. La Salle

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA 1, 2,3 & 4	GARFIELD / COLLATERAL / THE VILLAGE CINDERELLA
PREMIERE THEATRE	COLLATERAL

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GHOST HOUSE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME
CINEMA-6	KILL BILL VOL. 2
CINEMA-7	WEREWOLF
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-12	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-14	ALONG CAME POLLY
CINEMA-15	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Carmina: Ara and I can't be friends

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes and Peachy Vibal-Guioguio, *Contributor*

CARMINA Villaroel said she and fellow actress Ara Mina are not friends and are not going to be friends anytime soon.

Reacting to Jomari Yllana's comment on TV on Monday that he was willing to be an instrument for his girlfriend Ara and Carmina to patch things up, Carmina said, "We're not friends to begin with. It's the truth. I don't want to be a hypocrite. So, even if people offer to bring us together, it wouldn't be that easy. I'm not ready to talk to her."

Carmina, however, allowed that she might welcome the idea of being friends with Ara in the future but that she does not want to force it right now.

"Maybe in time when I've forgotten all of this," she said, speaking in Filipino. "I don't want to force it. It will just happen."

Ara co-stars with Carmina's live-in partner Zoren Legaspi in GMA 7's new telenovela, "Mulawin." Carmina and Zoren have 3-year-old twins, Maverick and Cassandra.

The feud started when Ara was said to have told some people that Zoren is not the real father of the twins. Ara has denied having said so.

At one time during the peak of the fight with Ara, Carmina said, "All I can say is I have no record of being a home wrecker."

Ara's relationship with Jomari is said to be the reason for the breakup of the marriage of Jomari and Aiko Melendez, who is also Carmina's close friend.

Asked about Zoren's reaction to the rumors that raise doubts on his being father to the twins, Carmina said, "It didn't bother him because he knows the truth. The rumors are all lies. He's a real gentleman because he kept quiet."

Carmina said Zoren told her not to take the rumors seriously.

"But I felt sad," she said. "I felt hurt because this is my kids we're talking about.

"I want to believe that she (Ara) kept quiet already so I would keep quiet also," Carmina concluded.

'All About You'

Carmina was speaking in a press lunch last Tuesday. On Aug. 17, she will be turning 29. She said she received an advanced birthday gift: She has been chosen to be the next host of the 7th season of GMA 7's lifestyle show, "All About You," starting this Sunday at 11 a.m.

ENOUGH ALREADY. Carmina hopes Ara Mina (left) will stop talking so she can stop talking, too.

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

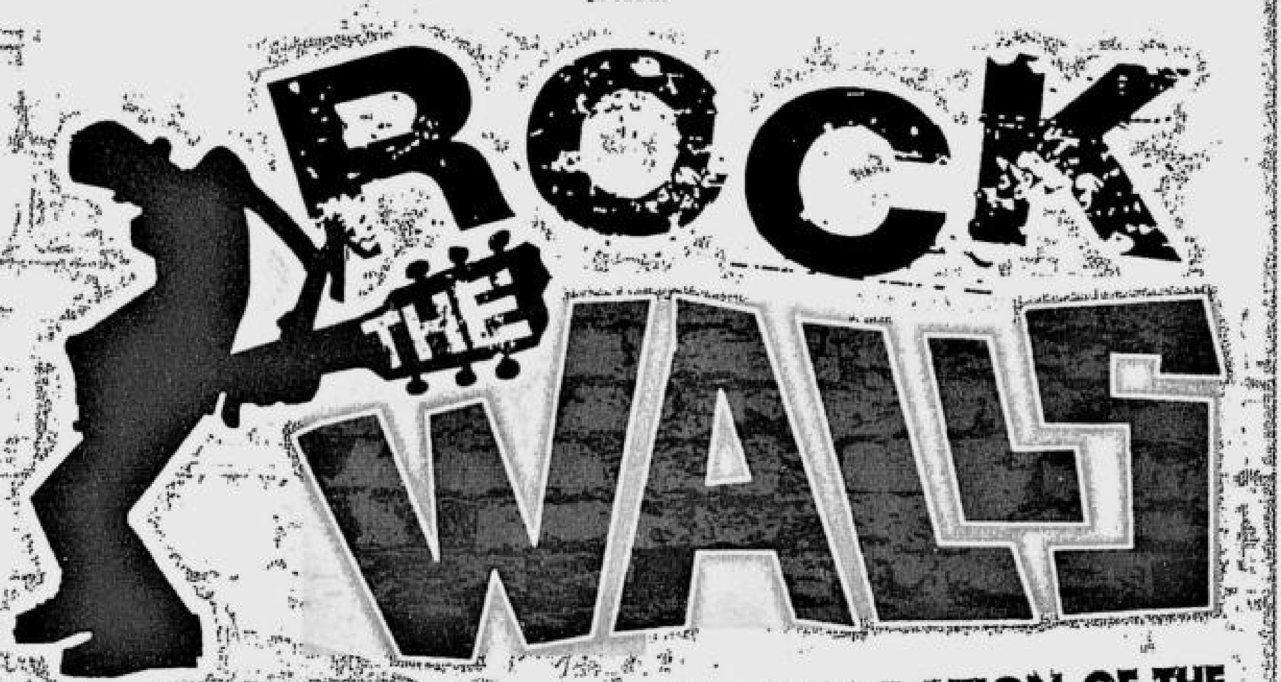
She will be following in the footsteps of Lucy Torres, Dawn Zulueta, Mikee Cojuangco and Lorna Tolentino, who all hosted "All About You" before her.

"This show really makes me proud because we're not just entertaining, we are also inspiring people," Carmina enthused.

Carmina was 18 when she secretly married actor Rustom Padilla, brother of action star Robin Padilla. It was a turbulent marriage that ended in an annulment about two years ago.

It was Zoren, she said in another interview last week, who helped her fully recover from that painful episode after they met again while promot-

CARMINA/ A21



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2	A CINDERELLA STORY	THE VILLAGE	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	GUARANTEED SEATS THX THE VILLAGE 2 20, 4 35, 6 50, 9 05, 11 20	THE WHOLE 10 YARDS
3	COLLATERAL	A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX COLLATERAL 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50	GUARANTEED SEATS ETERNAL SUNSHINE 1 30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30	COLLATERAL
4	GARFIELD	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	COLLATERAL	GUARANTEED SEATS COLLATERAL 1 20, 3 45, 6 10, 8 35, 11 00	PRINCE & ME
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU		GARFIELD	GUARANTEED SEATS COLLATERAL 3 00, 5 25, 7 50, 10 15	GARFIELD
6			THE VILLAGE		
7			SYLVIA		

	GB1 GREENBELT 1
1	COLLATERAL 11 45, 2 10, 4 35, 7 00, 9 25
2	THE VILLAGE 11 20, 1 20, 3 35, 5 50, 8 05

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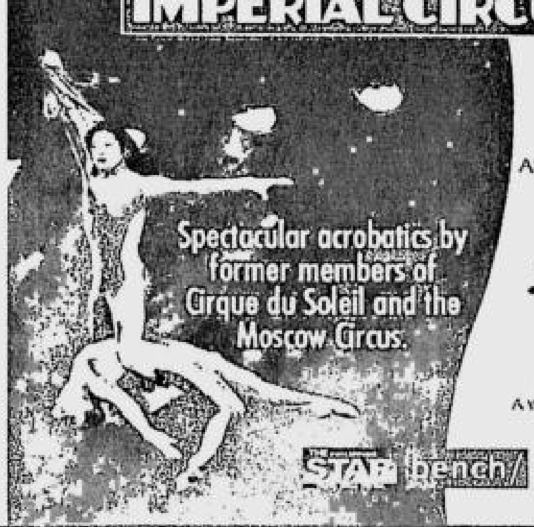
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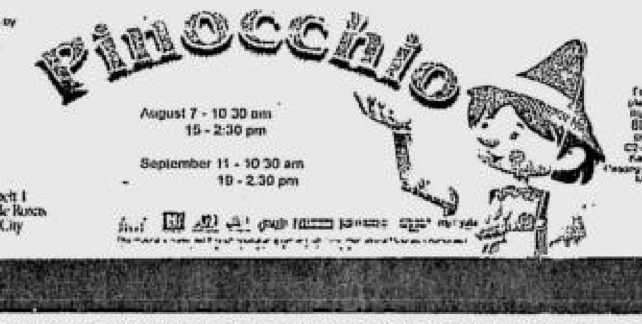

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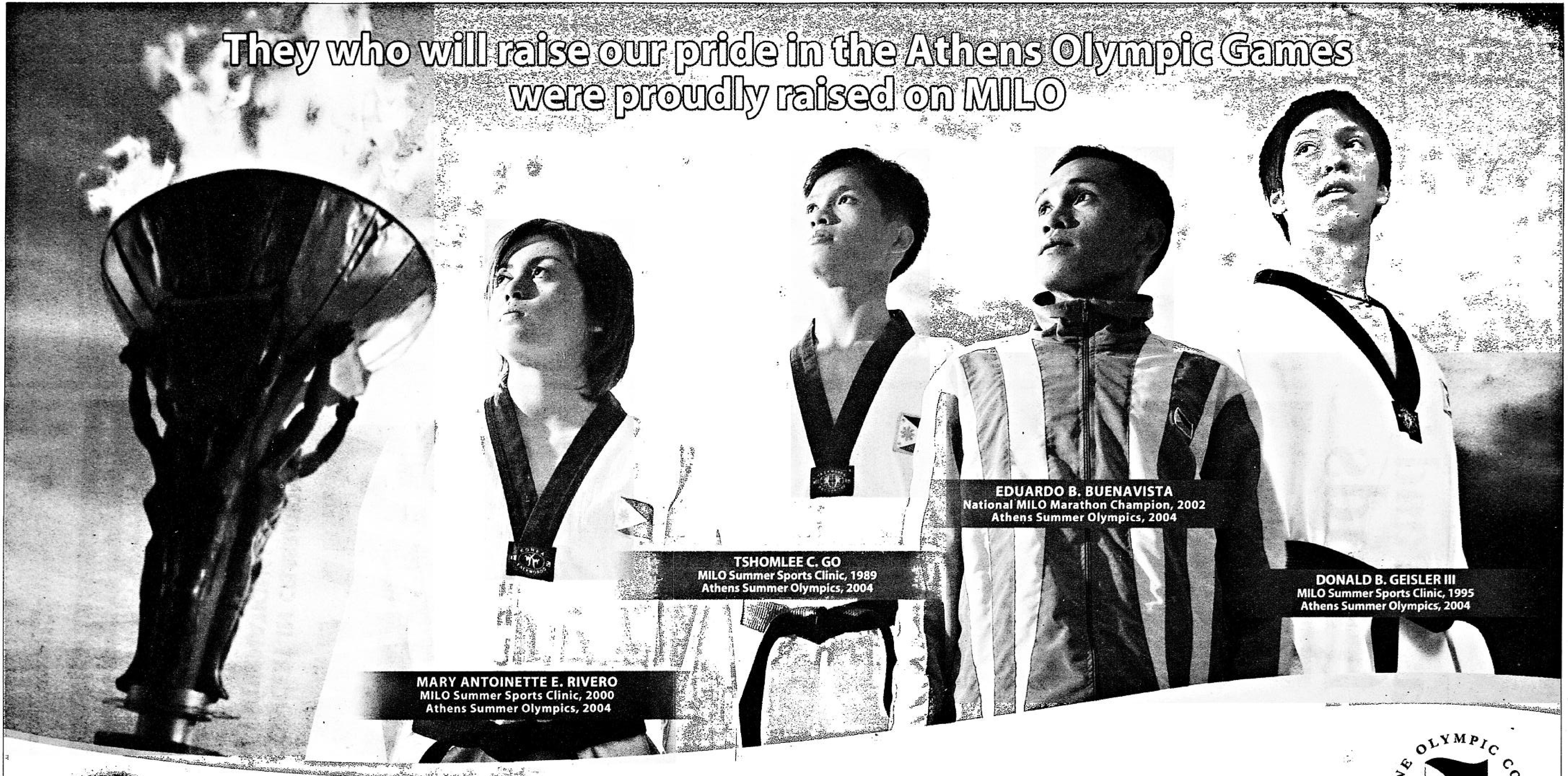
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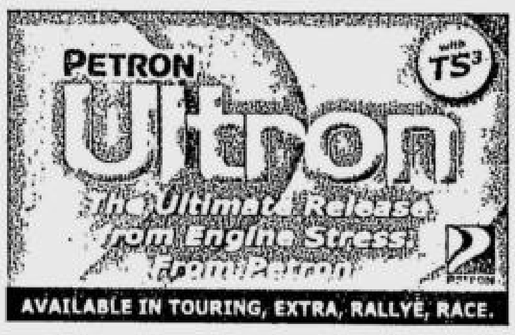
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Gov't pushes hike in SSS contributions

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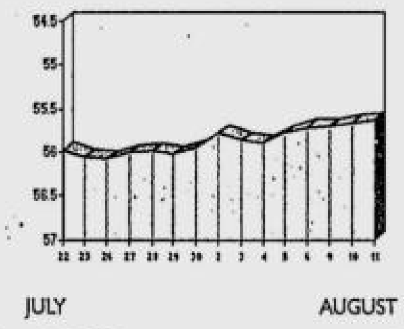

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2004

¥ 111.25 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2004

GOLD: $395.8-396.3
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 11, 2004

August 11, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817261	1.000000	55.6970
Japan	Yen	0.007341	0.008982	0.5003
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492972	1.826800	101.7473
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104793	0.128225	7.1417
Switzerland	Franc	0.647438	0.792205	44.1234
Canada	Dollar	0.618481	0.756773	42.1500
Singapore	Dollar	0.476760	0.583363	32.4916
Australia	Dollar	0.585472	0.716384	39.9004
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.167915	2.652661	147.7453
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217936	0.266667	14.8526
Brunei	Dollar	0.475373	0.581666	32.3971
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019736	0.024149	1.3450
UAE	Dirham	0.222517	0.272272	15.1647
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.223600	68.1508
Brazil	Real	0.270347	0.330797	18.4244
India	Rupee	0.017659	0.021608	1.2035
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215097	0.263193	14.6591
Mexico	New Peso	0.071551	0.087550	4.8763
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535557	0.655308	36.4987
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000866	0.0482
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.024080	0.029464	1.6411

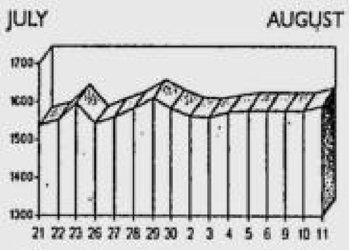
STOCK MARKET

Globe paces market rise

STOCKS rose yesterday, led by phone firm Globe Telecom Inc., as players tracked the rise on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve said the US economy was ready for strong growth.

The main index finished 13.14

GLOBE/ B4



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is pushing for an increase in members' contributions to the Social Security System, saying a quick resolution of the pension fund's financial problem is needed to prevent a potential government bailout.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said an increase in contributions to the SSS would be one of the priorities of the finance department. The gravity of the problem besetting the SSS justified an increase in members' contributions, she said.

Data from its annual report showed that the SSS would be forced to use its reserves by 2008 and that its funds would be depleted by 2015 if premium payments would not be raised. Assuming an annual increase in the payment of pension benefits, the SSS' funds would only last until 2008.

The SSS reported that the amount it spent for payment of pension benefits had been exceeding members' contributions from 1999 to 2003, which shortened the life of its funds. In 2003, the SSS generated only P39.4 billion in contributions compared with the P42.81 billion in payment of benefits.

The amount spent for the payment of benefits was on top of its operating expenses, which stood at P4.78 billion.

Under the law, the national government is obligated to ensure the solvency of the SSS and should therefore shoulder payment of members' benefits if the pension fund could no longer afford to do so.

"If there will be no adjustments in the contributions of employers and employees to the SSS, its fund gap will not be solved," Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio said.

The last time contributions to the SSS was raised was in March last year, but SSS said the increase was not enough. The adjustment was set at one percentage point, raising a member's contribution from 8.4 percent of his or her salary to 9.4 percent. The previous 8.4-percent rate was in effect since 1979.

The DOF said the SSS was conducting a study on how much should the members' contributions be raised. The resulting amount of increase should be forwarded to the Office of the President for approval.

According to the DOF, pushing for an increase in contributions to the SSS was part of its agenda of helping state-owned firms become financially independent of the national government, which is trying to solve its own serious budget problems.

The DOF said it has begun strict monitoring of GOCC's financial performance, particularly their compliance with the law requiring them to remit at least 50 percent of income to the national government as dividends.

The DOF said some GOCCs have been remitting less than what was required by law, while others have not been remitting any amount at all. It added that while the failure of some government-owned and -controlled corporations to remit dividends was justified considering their financial problems, others were simply remiss in their obligations.

Crude eases off highs, but jitters remain

SINGAPORE—Crude oil prices remained close to record highs yesterday after easing earlier when production resumed from key southern Iraqi fields, but markets remained heated on persistent concerns about possible disruptions to supply.

Investors were awaiting the release later yesterday of weekly US oil stock data, while also tracking the likely course of Tropical Storm Bonnie as it headed toward the Florida coast, a key production area.

The harsh weather system has already prompted at least five US oil companies to suspend work at their offshore wells, prompting prices to spike higher before the Iraqi news tugged them back down.

Crude oil for September delivery was at $44.55 a barrel in after-hours trade yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, up from a session low of $44.38.

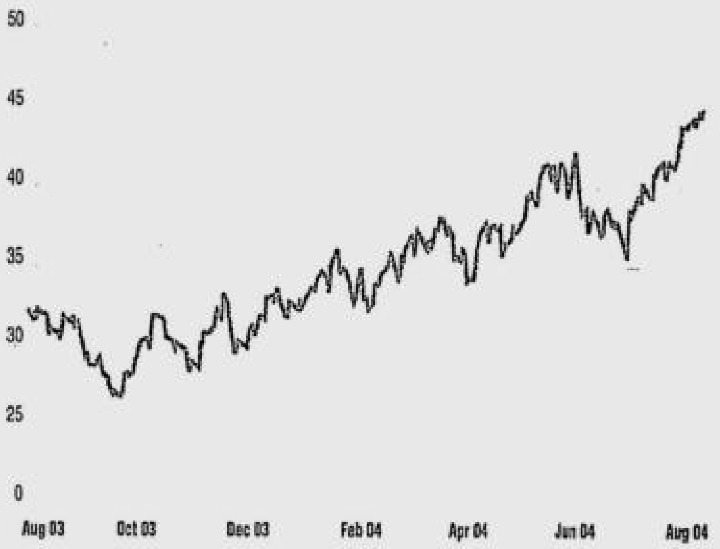
But prices remained just below Tuesday's fresh record of $45.04 barrel, the latest in a string of all-time highs that have been hit as markets fret about tight global supplies even as demand remains strong.

Iraq's Southern Oil Co. has resumed pumping to two key southern export terminals after reaching a deal with a Shiite militia that had threatened to blow up the pipelines unless the company stopped production.

About 1.8 million barrels per day, or 90 percent of Iraq's exports, move through the southern port of Basra, and any prolonged shutdown in the flow of Iraq's main money earner roils energy markets.

CRUDE/ B4

CRUDE OIL PRICES*
August 2003 to August 2004, in US$ a barrel



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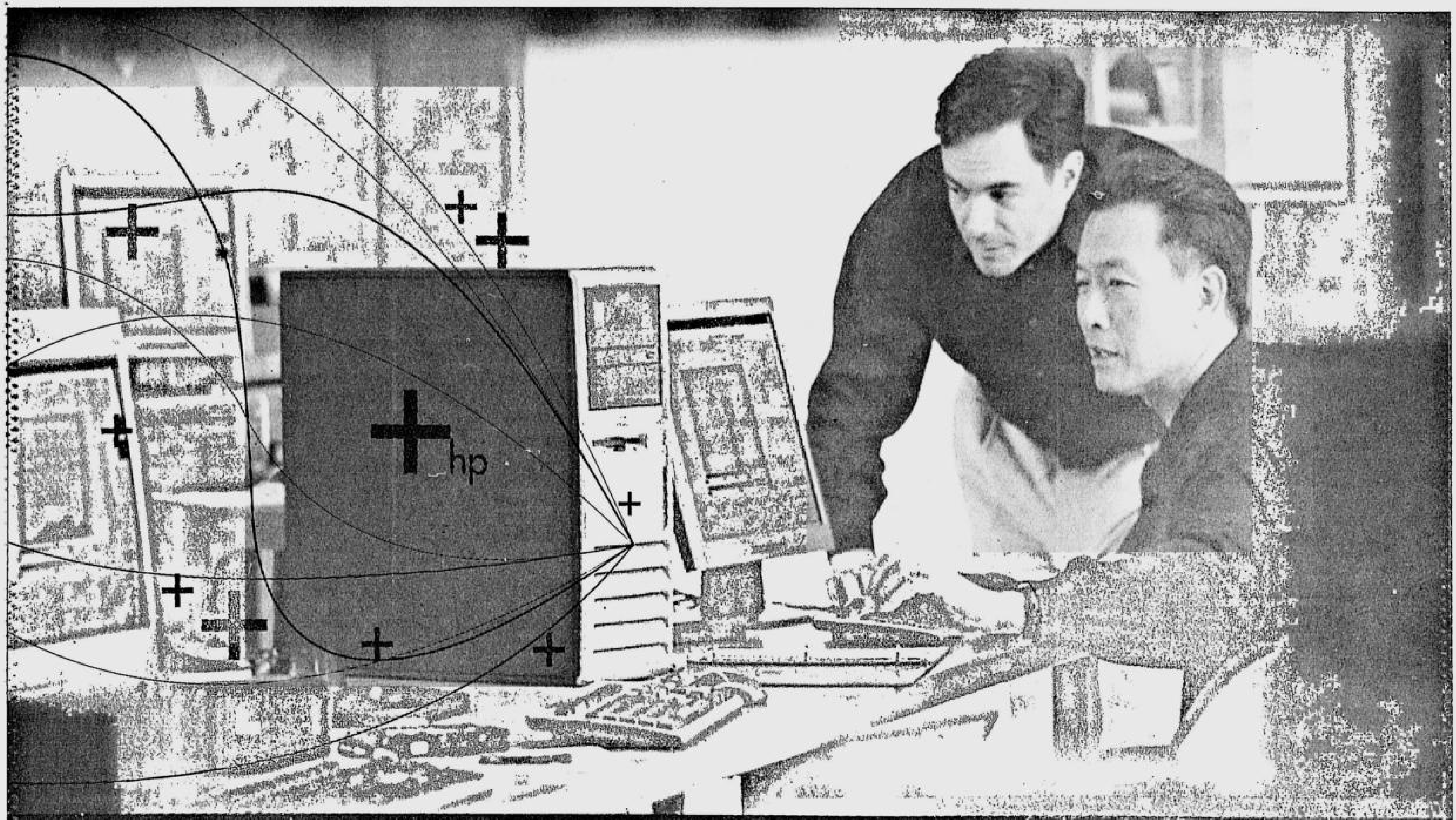

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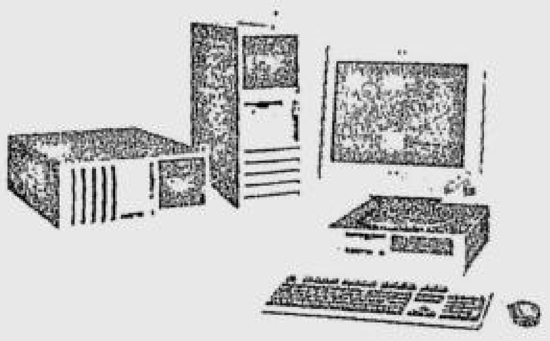

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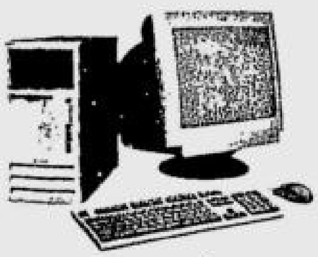

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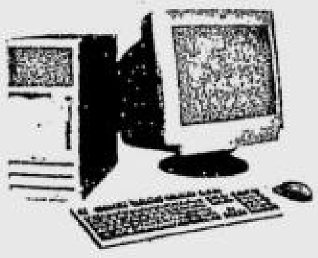

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*Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 1Q 2004

New NSC owner threatens pullout over tax issue

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NEW owner of National Steel Corp. is threatening to withdraw its investments after the City of Iligan failed to make good its commitment to defer or waive the collection of P750 million in unpaid real estate dues, according to well-placed sources.

The Macapagal administration sold the assets of NSC early this year to Global Infrastructure Holdings Inc., one of the world's biggest steel companies.

"Creditors are worried because the new owner of NSC is threatening to pull out after the city council of Iligan came up with a resolution pressing for the collection of the P750 million in real estate taxes," a banker familiar with the situation said.

The new twist prompted NSC liquidator Danilo Concepcion to ask the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue a temporary restraining order against the Iligan City resolution. The SEC is empowered to issue a TRO in cases involving companies that are under liquidation.

Before the May elections, the local government of Iligan had agreed to defer or even waive the P750 million in back real estate taxes just so the steel plant could operate again and rehire some of the workers who were laid off when the NSC plant was shut down.

NSC was forced to close its plant in 1999 after failing to pay debts totaling P16 billion. Asia's oldest steel company succumbed to pressures from the influx of cheap imports from Russia and South Africa.

The shutdown of the plant, which used to produce 1.5 million metric tons of steel, left some 4,000 workers jobless. The rehabilitation of NSC would provide 500 jobs and generate P25 billion in annual revenue.

A source said that politics had something to do with the local government's move on NSC's unpaid taxes.

"There are talks that since the new mayor now belongs to the opposition, then there was a change in the (local government's) position," a source noted.

HGC eyes ₱16B in fresh funds

HOME Guaranty Corp. (HGC) is set to intensify its funds generation campaign in a bid to raise some P16 billion over the next two years to further boost its guarantee capacity and encourage greater expansion of investments in middle-level and socialized housing projects.

This was disclosed by HGC president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan who said the agency might tap the capital market once more to raise P10 billion of the target amount. Bongolan said the balance could come from the sale of HGC assets.

Bongolan said HGC was strongly considering another bond flotation similar to the successful issuance of HGC zero coupon bonds in 2002. The highly successful bonds flotation netted some P4.28 billion for the housing sector. The proceeds were used to meet guarantee obligations which, in turn, helped restore private sector confidence in the housing initiatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The success of the earlier bond flotation "was deemed timely because prior to the issue, the HGC was faced with unpaid and imminent guarantee calls amounting to almost P16 billion while HGC's cash position was at a mere P300 million," Bongolan said.

HGC guarantees housing loans granted by both private and government financial institutions. These financial institutions call on HGC guarantee once borrowers are declared in default.

Bongolan said the optimistic outlook on the prospects of a second bond flotation was based on the continued demand for zero coupon bonds as reflected in the secondary market activities in the security.

"From the issue yield-to-maturity of 10.125 percent, we are aware that zeroes are currently trading in the secondary market at rates below 9 percent," Bongolan said.

"This further confirms the credibility of HGC as an issuer, and attests to the corporation's ability to pass the scrutiny of investment analysts and professionals," Bongolan said.

Bongolan recalled that the agency "was pleasantly surprised with the oversubscription to the issue."

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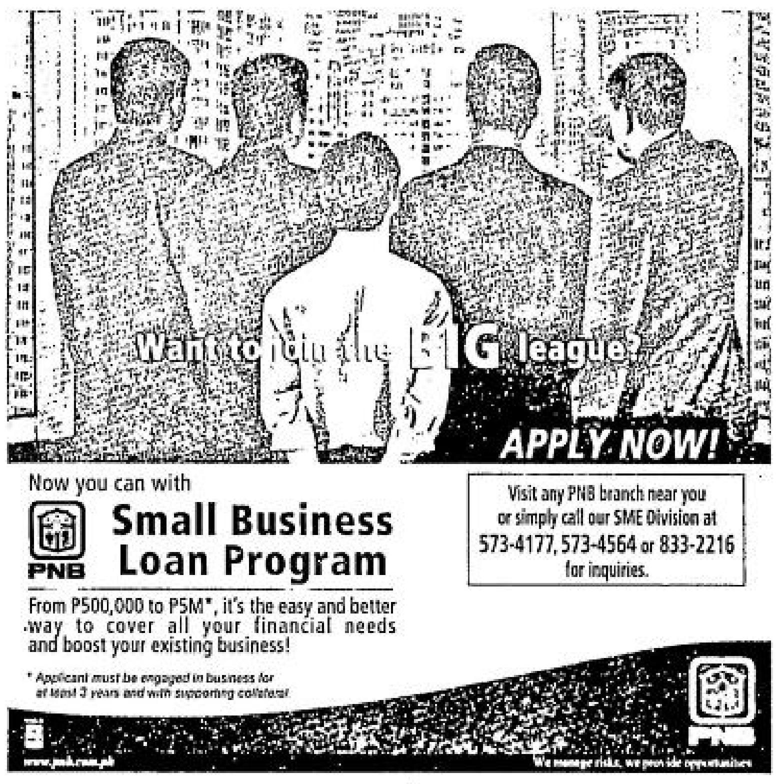
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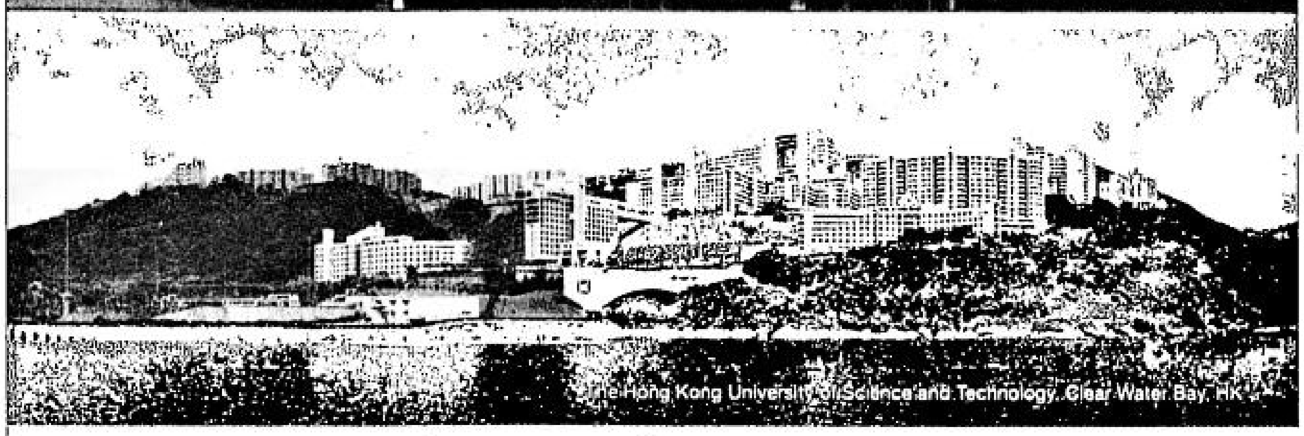
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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on July 28, 2004, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE BANK for the registration of the following securities: (1) P442,000,000.00 to P835,000,000.00 worth of common shares, consisting of 4,420,000 to 8,350,000 primary common shares with a par value of P100.00 per share, to be offered to the public by way of an initial public offering at an offer price range of between P160.00 to P190.00 per share; (2) P2,500,000,000.00 worth of issued and outstanding common shares, consisting of 25,000,000 shares with a par value of P100.00 per share.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
Gerardo O. Lanuza, Jr.	Chairman
Ben C. Tiu	Vice Chairman
Ramon Y. Sy	President & Chief Executive Officer
Wilson L. Sy	Director
Wilfredo C. Tecson	Director
Ruben C. Tiu	Director
Walter W. Brown	Director
Enrique K. Razon, Jr.	Director
Dante g. Santos	Director
Gregorio T. Yu	Director
A. Bayani K. Tan	Corporate Secretary

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business, hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

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Guts-less society

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FOR the past four years, this cute administration of Gloriaetta has been telling everybody that it was trying hard to reduce the budget deficit.

Thus, this cute administration surprised nobody when, after giving its level best, it finally managed to increase the deficit.

And that explains all the noise—well, it is actually a "protest" through the airwaves—over some new taxes , particularly the touchy tax on cell phone text messages.

By taxing us to death, this cute administration says that it only wants to try, as it did in the past four years, to cut the deficit some more.

Uh-oh! Going by the track record of this cute administration, which says one thing and does another, does that mean the deficit will go up some more?

* * *

ACTUALLY, the Department of Finance thought of the tax on cell phone text messages as part of a package of new taxes.

Again—it was a package!

The idea was to exact tolls on frivolous and indulgent activities, like smoking, drinking, womaniz... este, no, this is not legal pala, although it is a necessity to some senators. Right, Bong?

Anyway, to me, the DOF package should have included prohibitive taxes on such things as liquor, cigarettes, soft drinks, luxury cars, golf clubs, makeup, manicure, liposuction, nose lift, Botox, Viagra, toupees and text messages.

Come on, don't tell me, in this country, text messaging is not an excess.

It may not be a vice, sure ... but then again it may actually only be a harmless vice.

At least, by texting, you don't get lung cancer, cirrhosis of the liver or unwanted pregnancy.

Yesterday, I got a total of 20 one-word text messages, just one single freaking word, not to mention a few ribald jokes, such as the one on the male potency enhancing breakthrough called VIAGRO.

* * *

BUT unfortunately for the DOF, as early as two years ago, some secret groups already organized a campaign against the tax on text messages.

Any campaign entails costs. I wonder where all those "anti" groups are getting their campaign funds.

No—impossible—not the telephone companies!

* * *

LIKE it or not, the budget deficit under this cute administration is the biggest single economic issue to hit this country, since the time some Cabinet secretaries began to believe that they could hold musical concerts.

The International Monetary Fund even has something to say about it—I mean, the deficit.

This is the IMF, mind you, to which all our creditors—present and future—always listen.

The IMF prognosis goes something like this: If we do not solve the deficit problem right now, as in this very minute, we are dead.

The trend will become irreversible after only three years, according to the IMF.

By 2010, at the end of this cute administration, we will have to go for a debt moratorium.

We declared a similar moratorium in 1983. For those of you who are young enough to have missed its paralyzing effects on this country, let me tell you that it was worse than having for our President, the likes of Mackoy, Tita Cory, Kuya Eddie, the man named Band ... Wrist Band ... and Gloriaetta—even all of them combined.

No amount of text jokes can save us from the resulting economic devastation.

* * *

IN other words, we must do everything to prevent a repeat of the 1980s debt crisis.

Everybody must chip in, I guess, by accepting the inevitability of taxes.

It's just that, to me, the tax on text messages is an unpopular measure, simply because people can feel it right away in their day-to-day lives.

And that is the reason why this cute administration, together with its cliques in Congress, must throw away the tax proposal. It caved in to public pressure—again.

After all, it was also a tax on an everyday item, which was said to have sparked the American revolution more than 200 years ago.

You know—the tax on tea!

On the other hand, the proposed measure to raise the excise tax on oil products is NOT an unpopular tax.

Well, people hardly know what the freak "excise tax" is all about.

Moreover, people will not blame this cute administration for the resulting jump in fuel prices.

For this, people will always blame the oil companies. *Lusot ang* Gloriaetta!

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, is actually the problem.

Under this cute administration, even when hard decisions are already needed, everything is still a matter of compromise.

This cute administration loves recycled ideas, such as the gross taxation for business and the retooling of the Bataan nuclear plant.

When whatever it is that hits the fan, hits the fan, this cute administration simply avoids the spill out by backing out.

It's as if this cute administration must always try to please everybody.

And this is bad when the whole country is facing a crisis. We need resolute governance, right now.

We can see the same lame attitude in Congress.

When two or more are angling for the Senate presidency, for instance, our leaders go for ... well, "term sharing."

Gone are the days when our senators would lay down their, er, spherical manhood on the table to support a particular candidate for the position.

That is what "term sharing" is all about, really. You know—no guts!

* * *

AND so, we would rather have higher fuel prices by raising the excise tax on oil, than convincing everybody to accept the tax measures on non-necessities.

If all of us, including the business sector, and not just the "organized" texters, must have our day in the court of public opinion, this cute administration must at least try to spread around the burden of solving the deficit problem.

Tax the text messages, sure, but also tax the other non-necessities, platform shoes and height enhancing pills included. Oops.

And what do we do about jueteng?

This is the P30-billion a year gambling racket, which the business sector has been dying to see legitimized, if only for the huge revenue it would have given this financially challenged cute administration.

Everybody must chip in.

Maybe it's time for the government to instead get the jueteng "income" of the mayors, governors, provincial commanders, chiefs of police, congressman, maybe all the way up to the highest places.

PetroEnergy lists shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

OIL exploration firm PetroEnergy Resources Corp., the first new listing this year on the Philippine Stock Exchange, rose sharply on its market debut yesterday.

Its share price hit a high of P4.20 before closing at P3.70, 23 percent higher than its listing price of P3, on trades worth P3.37 million.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said after the listing ceremony yesterday that the active trade of the shares of PetroEnergy, could pave the way for the listing of more energy firms on the stock exchange.

PetroEnergy holds exploration service contracts in Africa and the Philippines.

In Gabon, sub-Saharan Africa's third largest producer and exporter of crude oil, it has a stake in an offshore oil exploration project operated by VAALCO Gabon (Etame) Inc.

In the Philippines, it has interests in the Galoc and Octon fields off northwest Palawan, which have proven crude oil and natural gas reserves, as well as in Mindoro, the Visayas Basin and Sulu Sea. *With a report from Reuters*

PSE acquires E-PCIB stake in clearing firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has accepted the offer of the Philippine Stock Exchange to buy its 22-percent stake in the Securities and Clearing Corp. of the Philippines.

The acquisition involving Equitable PCI's 110,000 common shares will increase PSE's stake in the company to 73 percent.

All trades executed at the PSE go through the SCCP, which guarantees payment in case of a default.

Other SCCP shareholders are the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., 22 percent and Citibank NA, 10 percent.

The PSE wanted to increase its stake in SCCP as part of its efforts to increase revenues.

With more control, the PSE believes it can make SCCP's operations more efficient.

EPCIBank, the country's third biggest private lender, also reported yesterday that it chalked up a net profit of P682.4 million in the first six months, about 2.6 percent higher than the P665.1 million first-half profit reported last year.

Its net interest income, or income from interest charged on loans, surged by 50 percent to P3.65 billion, the highest level in four years.

Gross interest income climbed 23 percent to P7.6 billion while interest expenses rose at a slower pace of 5.5 percent, to P3.93 billion.

Non-interest income was up by 7.3 percent to P3.8 billion, fueled by a 22.2-percent gain in fees and charges to P2.2 billion.

EPCIBank chair Antonio Go said the results in the first half reflected a stronger balance sheet and increasing margins, robust fee income and controlled expenses.

"They reflect the strength and diversity of our businesses," he said.

EPCIBank president and CEO Rene Buenaventura explained that volumes remained buoyant and the positive gains reflected the strong internal growth and momentum in the bank's core businesses.

"We continued to attract new customers which contributed to steady asset growth," he said.

Buenaventura maintained his forecast of a double digit profit growth in the medium term.

"The real positive appears to be that consumer and middle-market business lending continues to be strong," Buenaventura added.

PCCI backs Yap appointment

THE INFLUENTIAL Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has endorsed the appointment of former National Food Authority administrator Arthur Yap as the new agriculture secretary.

PCCI president Noemi Saludo said in a statement that the PCCI hoped that Yap would implement reforms in the agency to boost the agricultural sector.

Saludo said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has chosen "the best person for the job. Arthur is young, energetic, and full of fresh ideas [as evidenced by his] significant and fruitful term as administrator of the NFA."

The PCCI, the country's biggest umbrella group of businessmen, added in its statement that it would remain a steadfast partner in government efforts to boost agricultural productivity and boost the farmers' and fisherfolk's stake in the economy.

Ayala nets P2.64B as of June

AYALA Corp., one of the country's largest conglomerates, reported a 90-percent increase in its net profit to P2.64 billion, from P1.39 billion, on the strength of its telecommunications and banking units.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands' profit surged by 32 percent to P3.5 billion, on higher revenue and improved margins.

Net interest income rose 23 percent while non-interest income increased 3 percent from gains from its insurance business, asset management and rentals among others.

Loans rose 4 percent to P337 billion while deposits also grew 4 percent to P213 billion. Bad loans as a share of total loans improved to 5.9 percent in the first half from 6.8 percent in December.

On the other hand, Globe Telecom Inc.'s consolidated net earnings expanded 58 percent to P6.9 billion on net operating revenues of P27.6 billion.

Gross subscribers increased by 3.2 million for the second quarter.

Total wireless subscribers hit over 10.5 million at the end of June, 45 percent more than the same period last year.

Operating costs and expenses increased at a slower rate of 7 percent to P10.3 billion.

"We are pleased with the overall performance of the group, especially given the political and economic uncertainty that we experienced in the first six months of the year," Ayala Corp. president and chief executive officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said.

He said the January to June performance "underscores not only the underlying strength of core business but is also reflective of the tremendous value that AC Capital is able to generate from its portfolio. We feel that this momentum is sustainable, especially with a more positive post-election business climate," Zobel said.

AC Capital is Ayala's internal development division, which manages the group's non-core businesses like information technology, food water and electronics. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Crude eases off highs, but jitters remain

From page B1

The militia deal did ease supply fears but observers stressed that plenty of other equally potent concerns remain.

Russia's largest exporter Yukos continues to skirt bankruptcy; South American producer Venezuela holds a referendum Aug. 15 on President Hugo Chavez's rule that could hit supplies there, and simmering unrest in Nigeria—Africa's largest supplier—has also stoked concern.

"You have Venezuela, you have Nigeria, you have Iraq, you have Yukos, back and forth," said Esa Ramasamy, the editorial manager for oil in Asia at Platts, the energy market analysts.

"And every day in this world you have one refinery that is going down: they all contribute to the bullish factor," Singapore-based Ramasamy said yesterday.

Ramasamy said oil producers' cartel Opec—whose members produce about 30 million barrels of crude a day, and account for about half of the world's traded oil—was now stretched to the limit.

"They are producing to the max already, and to do any marginal increase you need time," Ramasamy said of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 11, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	86,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41	429,900
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	1,620
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40.5	40	40.5	37,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	110,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	27	25.5	26	450,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24	24	30,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2200	2200	2200	2200	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	102,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	110	110	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1500	1500	1500	80
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21.5	21	21.25	12,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	4,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	910	930	910	920	160,040
Ipeople Inc.	1.48	1.58	1.46	1.48	448,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.44	2.46	78,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.46	2.6	2.46	2.55	33,201,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1270	1280	1270	1270	174,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.54	0.63	0.54	0.62	3,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.75	15	15.25	95,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	23.75	22.5	23	2,622,800
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.65	3,771,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	110,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	560,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.6	3.8	3.55	3.65	3,953,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,600,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	2,200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	88,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.72	1.82	1.72	1.8	2,151,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	380,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	19,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	72,000
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	56.5	57	48,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70.5	69.5	70.5	62,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	3,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	1,579,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	194,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	300
A. Soriano Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	90,000
APC Group Inc.	0.085	0.09	0.085	0.09	1,700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	295,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1	1	1	1	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.75	24.75	24	24.75	78,800
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.165	0.14	0.14	950,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.5	22,640,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.21	0.21	7,170,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.46	1.6	13,329,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	2,200,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.7	0.5	0.53	160,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	24.25	23	23.75	1,497,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	13,100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	255,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	457,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,252,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	6,240,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	50,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	210,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	480,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	32,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.15	1,850,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	810,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	19,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.67	0.57	0.67	20,720,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.32	1,480,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.75	21	21.5	222,800
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.32	0.32	0.2	0.2	210,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	12,319,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,020,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	730,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2	2.2	2	2.2	985,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	800,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	3,191,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	50,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	110,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.06	1.24	1.06	1.24	52,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.23	0.23	4,510,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,360,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	183,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	438,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,350,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	500,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	102,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	129,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	250,000
Pacifica	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.95	4.2	2.95	3.7	912,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.034	14,900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.225	0.225	0.18	0.18	1,660,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Salcon Power Corp.** ratified the memorandum of understanding between the company and Kepco Philippines Corp., which will conduct financial, technical and legal due diligence on the former after the latter expressed interest in acquiring a 30 to 40-percent stake in Salcon.

* * *

GLOBAL Equities Inc.'s subsidiary, Mountain Ridge Executive Resort and Corporate Center Inc., entered into a joint venture agreement for the development of its 15.9-hectare property in Batangas with Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. and Rizal Commercial Baking Corp.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Equitable PCI Bank Inc.** approved the offer of the Philippine Stock Exchange to buy its equity in the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp.** were James Go, chair and chief executive officer; Robert Coyiuto Jr., president and chief operating officer; Jaime Ledesma, executive vice president; Apollo Madrid, senior vice president-operations; Ethelwoldo Fernandez, SVP-legal and corporate secretary; Perry Pe, assistant corporate secretary and Jeanette Yu, chief financial officer.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. disclosed the sale of 6,520 shares by four officers of the company at prices ranging from P1,275 to P1,280 each share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Globe paces market rise

From page B1

points or 0.83 percent higher at 1,592.40 points, the third straight day of gains.

But Asiasec Equities research head Oliver Plana said the market's rise might be temporary due to concerns over rising oil prices and the impact on consumer prices.

"The market has been trading sideways but on the positive side for days now. News of the positive comment by the Fed on the US economy helped sustain the positive momentum," Plana said.

"But there are no clear market indications and there are heavy concerns on rising oil prices."

Globe Telecom, the country's second-largest telephone firm, jumped 1.66 percent or P15 to P920. It was the second most actively traded stock.

The US Federal Reserve raised its interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point to 1.5 percent, its second increase this year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview with local television there was still room to keep overnight interest rates steady this year as inflation remained within the government target of 4-5 percent.

But he said the central bank might raise interest rates next year with inflation seen exceeding that target. *Reuters*

HIKE IN OIL PRICES

Gov't expects to miss '04 inflation target

By Michelle V. Remo

CONSUMERS may expect unprecedented increases in prices of commodities, as the surge in oil prices will likely cause inflation to breach the government's full-year target of 4 to 5 percent, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Scholastica Cororaton, Neda assistant director general and head of the agency's planning and policy division, said the continued increase in oil prices might take its toll on the government's inflation projections.

But she added that if inflation for the year would not exceed the 4- to 5-percent target, it would hover near the high-end of the projection.

"Right now we are already gearing toward the high end of the (inflation) target because of rising oil prices," Cororaton said in a telephone interview. "There is also the possibility of a slight breaching of the target."

She explained that a one-percent increase in domestic oil prices would result in a 0.067 rise in inflation.

Prices of oil in the world market have reached a new record high of $44.99 a barrel on Tuesday, following the decision of Iraq to temporarily suspend the pumping of crude from its southern oil fields due to threats of a militia attack. The $44.99 oil price surpassed the previous all-time high of $44.98 recorded the previous day.

Earlier, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul T. Concepcion warned of further increases in consumer prices by the end of the third quarter, when the impact of adjustments in the cost of oil and transportation are expected to be felt.

Local oil companies have already racked up prices of gasoline by as much as P4.85 a liter, and of diesel by as high as P3.65 a liter since the beginning of the year.

The oil price increases have prompted transport groups to call for a fare hike. The government recently allowed jeepney operators to increase fare by P1.50 for the first four kilometers.

The increases in oil prices and transport fare have already resulted in an unexpectedly high inflation in July, when its rate exceeded the 6-percent level—the highest in three years.

Although oil prices had reached new highs, Neda Director General Romulo Neri said that there was still no need to change the government's 4- to 5-percent inflation target. He said it would be difficult to predict how oil prices would behave in the coming months.

MAIDEN FLIGHT
Palau Micronesia Air on Saturday made its inaugural flight to Manila using a brand new Boeing 737-300 jet. The airline officials are keen on promoting tourism in Palau and the Philippines. Palau Micronesia Air president Alan Seid (left), joins Palau Amabassador to the Philippines Anita Rechirei-Suta, airline executive Jackson Henry, Naia operations manager Bing Lina, Asia Pacific Chartering director Catalino Bondoc and MacroAsia Properties Corp. president Chris Lu. ROGER MARGALLO

Fed rates seen to ratchet up RP need to ease deficit

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the Philippine government must brace for the upsurge in US Federal Reserve rates to as much as 3 percent by next year.

According to Buenaventura, government measures to plug fiscal leakages would be the country's "key to survival."

The US Fed on Tuesday raised its key policy rate to 1.5 from 1.25 percent, its second hike in six weeks after keeping the rate at its lowest since the 1950s. Further tightening is expected through 2005.

Without substantial improvements in revenue collection, and reduction in the budget deficit, the uptrend in US interest rates would hurt the government's already fragile fiscal position, the BSP chief said.

The Philippines' 10-year sovereign bonds currently have a 4.5 percentage-point differential between yields on comparable US Treasury notes.

Buenaventura said he expected the Fed to further tighten its interest rates to 3 percent, or double the current level, through 2005.

Buenaventura warned that if the Philippines failed to narrow the gap between its borrowing costs and US yields, "our interest cost will go up next year."

The Philippines has earmarked around 30 percent of its budget to foreign and domestic debt payments.

The government is also striving to keep its budget deficit at P184.5 billion next year, or 3.6 percent of gross domestic product.

But the BSP chief was quick to add that there would be no aggressive monetary tightening as this would worsen the situation.

"We will not be reacting on a knee-jerk basis, which was our problem in the past," he said. "Now, we are more transparent and measured in our responses."

Even without the BSP's intervention, he said Philippine benchmark treasury bill rates had recently risen as market participants discounted record high crude oil prices.

Buenaventura reiterated the BSP would try to avoid monetary tightening for as long as it could so as not to jeopardize the manufacturing sector.

But NPCC sees no hike in cost of basic goods

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRICES of basic goods remain stable and are not expected to go up—at least for the rest of the month, according to the National Price Coordinating Council.

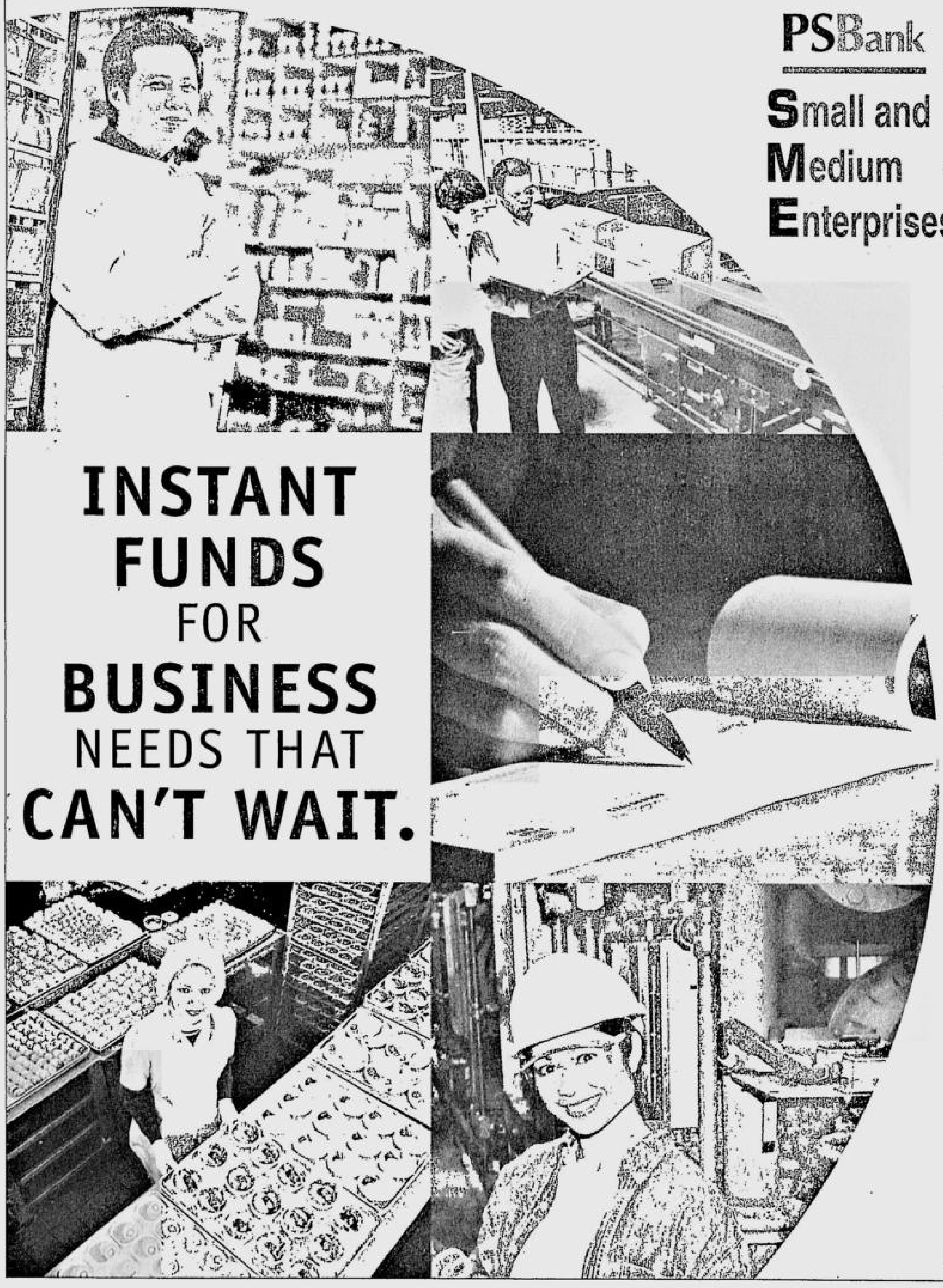
Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., who heads the NPCC, yesterday said that prices of prime consumer products have been stable in the past few months despite the continuing rise of oil prices here and abroad.

"As we have noted, there were increases in the price of certain brands of certain commodities, but these are transitory and not a trend," Cristobal said.

Also, the cost of raw materials and inputs—especially of tin plates and aluminum used for packaging food and drink—are going up in the world market, but local manufacturers have committed to help keep prices of goods stable, Cristobal said.

Bulk prices of tin plates more than doubled from $480 a metric ton in 2002 to $1,000 a ton this year. Finished cans now cost about P3 each from P1.80 each two years ago.

Should prices of agricultural products go up, authorities would implement strategies to ensure that consumers would have access to basic commodities at affordable prices, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.



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8	CATWOMAN
9	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10	GARFIELD
11	ELLA ENCHANTED
12	DEAD PEOPLE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	I, ROBOT
2	CATWOMAN
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10	ELLA ENCHANTED
11	DEAD PEOPLE
12	IMELDA

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4	CINDERELLA STORY
5	GARFIELD
6	COLLATERAL
7	I, ROBOT
8	ELLA ENCHANTED
9	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10	SYLVIA
11	DEAD PEOPLE
12	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	I, ROBOT
2	CINDERELLA STORY
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	COLLATERAL
5	GARFIELD
6	CATWOMAN
7	COLLATERAL
8	THE VILLAGE

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1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	CATWOMAN
3	THE VILLAGE
4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	COLLATERAL
6	ELLA ENCHANTED
7	GARFIELD
8	THE ALAMO
9	CINDERELLA STORY
10	I, ROBOT

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1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	THE VILLAGE
4	CINDERELLA STORY

North

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1	GARFIELD
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	CATWOMAN
4	THE VILLAGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	THE VILLAGE
2	GARFIELD
3	CATWOMAN
4	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
5	DEAD PEOPLE
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066088

1	GARFIELD
2	CINDERELLA STORY
3	THE VILLAGE
4	SYLVIA
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	DEAD PEOPLE
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	COLLATERAL
9	CATWOMAN
10	I, ROBOT

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	COLLATERAL
4	CINDERELLA STORY

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CINDERELLA STORY

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1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	THE VILLAGE
3	CATWOMAN
4	CINDERELLA STORY
5	GARFIELD
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7	COLLATERAL
8	DEAD PEOPLE

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1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	COLLATERAL
4	GARFIELD

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	PRINCE & ME
2	ALONG CAME POLLY
3	WEREWOLF (GINGERSNAPS 2)
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Visayas & Mindanao

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1	"MENOPAUSE"
2	WHOLE 10 YARDS
3	GARFIELD
4	PRINCE & ME
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	CATWOMAN
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8	COLLATERAL

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	COLLATERAL
2	RESERVED
3	KING ARTHUR
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5	PRINCE & ME
6	CATWOMAN
7	RESERVED
8	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	PRINCE & ME
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CATWOMAN
5	ELLA ENCHANTED
6	COLLATERAL

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	ALONG CAME POLLY
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	PRINCE & ME

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
COLLATERAL
11:50 FS/12:25 MF/3:05/5:45/8:25/10:25 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

2
CINDERELLA STORY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:25 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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11 Garfield life-size stuff toys

Promo period is from August 7–14 only. Grand Draw is on Aug. 16, 2004.

*Participating Branches: Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Manila, Megamall, North Edsa, Sta Mesa, Southmall, Sucat, Tutuban, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Pampanga and Cebu.
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*These premium item giveaways are available at all SM Cinema branches except Pampanga, Cebu, Baguio, Lucena, Iloilo, Davao Cagayan de Oro and Marilao

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1491, Series of 2004

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Welcoming the world-renowned Imperial Circus troupe are Ayala Land Inc executives: Tina Esguerra, division manager; Winnie Nazareth, vice president, marketing; Rowena Tomeldan, vice president; Greenbelt Center manager Myrna Fernandez, and Glorietta Center manager Jose Jesena. The Imperial Circus performed at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center Makati from Aug. 5 to 8. Catch them at the Alabang Town Center from Aug. 13 to 15 and at the Ayala Center Cebu from Aug. 20 to 22.

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3 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE	PG - 13
4 (DOLBY)	CINDERELLA STORY	GP

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL	R-13

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5.	A CINDERELLA STORY

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2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4 (SDDS)	MAKAMUNDO
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL
7 (DTS)	THE VILLAGE
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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2	THE VILLAGE
3	KARELASYON

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1	RESERVE
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3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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5	KARELASYON

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	DEAD PEOPLE
2	KARELASYON
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	CATWOMAN
5 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
6	COLLATERAL

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1 (DDS)	COLLATERAL
2 (SDDS)	THE VILLAGE
3 (DTS)	GARFIELD
4 GOLD (DTS)	A CINDERELLA STORY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COLLATERAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ELLA ENCHANTED
8 [illegible]	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 [illegible]	SYLVIA
10 [illegible]	I - ROBOT

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4 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL
5 (DTS)	THE VILLAGE
6 (Dolby)	KA-RELASYON
7 (Dolby)	CINDERELLA STORY

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2	THE VILLAGE
3	KARELASYON
4	A CINDERELLA STORY

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS ES)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2	CATWOMAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE VILLAGE
4 (DTS)	GARFIELD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	CATWOMAN
2	I - ROBOT
3 (DOLBY)	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (DTS)	HAUNTED SPIRIT

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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3 (DOLBY)	CATWOMAN

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1 (SDDS)	DEAD PEOPLE
2	KARELASYON
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 (DTS)	MAKAMUNDO

Lianas MovieCity
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2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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Astring-O-Sol behind SATC event

HBO'S Sex and the City's will soon be airing it's final season. And to celebrate this, Astring-o-sol Ice, together with Asian Vision Cable Holdings, HBO, The Bellevue Manila and Rustan's present a memorable affair for all Sex and the City fans. On Aug. 14, Saturday, SATC fans can converge for a sexy and satisfying affair at the Bellevue Manila in Alabang, Muntinlupa. The by-invitation show is hosted by Johnny Litton and Chechel Joson. Program of the evening includes a fashion show presented by Rustan's, a celebrity dating game presented by Astring-o-sol Ice with a host of exciting prizes, and finally, the back-to-back premiere of the first two episodes of HBO's Sex and the City 6th and final season. So come and be a part of this one day affair. This promises to be one sexy and bold night.

Manila/Pasay Quiz Bee

THE QUIZ Bee Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and the DILG launches the 25th National Super Quiz Bee (NSQB). On Aug. 14, the first leg of the Metro Manila Quiz Bee division championships kick off with more than 80 private and public schools in Manila and Pasay City joining the competition. The venue will be the 25th Manila International Book Fair at the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City from 1 to 5 p.m. Prizes at stake for the winners are Quiz Bee medals and certificates, gift certificates and packages from partner sponsors. The Manila / Pasay Quiz Bee champions will be the representatives of Manila and Pasay City in the NCR Quiz Bee Regional Grand Finals. For more information and details on the schedule of elimination in your area, please contact the Quiz Bee Foundation at 7351272 or 7354494, email quizbee@edsamail.com.ph or log on to www.quizbee.net.

Technical briefing on Linux at APC

ASIA Pacific College will sponsor an IBM university day by holding a Speed-start Linux Applications event on Aug. 13, Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the APC auditorium. This technical briefing is intended to help speed the development of Linux-based applications. It will cover Linux and its growth in the industry, open source and open standards, reliability, security in a Linux environment, and the affordability of Linux-based applications. All interested participants can register through email: marifel_dizon@apc.edu.ph or dennis@apc.edu.ph or call tel. nos. 852-9232 local 202 and 203.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

REGULATORY ISSUANCE NO. 2004-02

To : MEMBER BANKS

Subject : **FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO Regulatory Issuance No. 2002-01 (Amended Rules and Regulations on Advertisement of Membership with PDIC)**

Pursuant to Sections 4(g) and 21(a), 21(f)(10) and 21(g) of Republic Act No.3591 (otherwise known as The Charter of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation), as amended by Republic Act No. 9302, effective 12 August 2004, the PDIC Board of Directors under Resolution No. 2004-07-060A dated 07 July 2004 approved the promulgation of the following further amendments to Regulatory Issuance No. 2002-01 (Amended Rules and Regulations on Advertisement of Membership with PDIC).

SECTION 1. Item 1 of Regulatory Issuance (RI) No. 2002-01 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

> "1. The PDIC shall supply the signs which an insured bank shall display. The signs shall be of two (2) types: Desktop or standees and sticker or decal **which shall read as follows:**
>
> **a) For PDIC Decals: 'This Bank is a Member of PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.00.'**
>
> **b) For PDIC Standees: 'Deposits insured by PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.'"**

SECTION 2. Item 10 (a) of the same RI is hereby further amended to read as follows:

> "10. The PDIC insurance statement shall be of two (2) types:
>
> "(a) The official advertising statement **'Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000'**, which shall be used in all printed advertisements;" xxx

SECTION 3. All other related rules and/or regulations which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Amended RI shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) RICARDO M. TAN
President & Chief Executive Officer

12 August 2004

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

BULLETIN NO. 2004 - 05

To : MEMBER BANKS

Subject : Republic Act No. 9302 Amending Sections 1, 4(g),6(a), and 6(h) of Republic Act No. 3591, as amended, (otherwise known as the "PDIC Charter")

In implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 9302 amending the Charter of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (RA 3591, as amended), **effective 12 August 2004**, please be guided by the following:

1) **Increase in the Maximum Deposit Insurance Coverage [Section 4(g) of RA 3591, amended]**

The maximum deposit insurance cover is increased to **P250,000.00 per depositor.**

2) **Increase in the Minimum Semi-Annual Assessment Fee [Section 6(a), ibid]**

The semi-annual assessment due for each insured bank shall be the product of the assessment base multiplied by ½ of 1/5 of one percent (1%) but in no case shall it be less than **P5,000.00.**

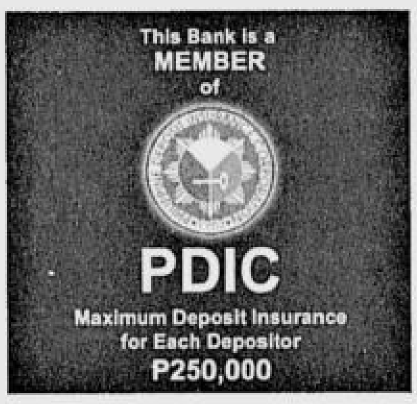
3) **Continuing Insurance Cover [Section 1 in relation to Section 6(h),ibid]**

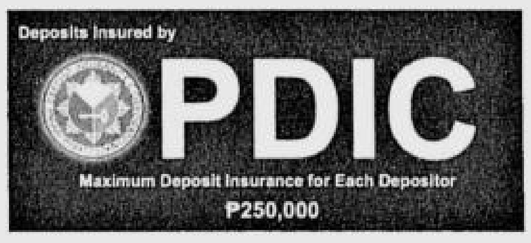
It is PDIC's basic policy to promote and safeguard the interests of the depositing public by way of providing permanent and continuing insurance coverage on all insured deposits and, as such, it shall not terminate the insured status of a bank, which continues to operate or receive deposits, for non-payment of assessment fees.

For your guidance.

(Sgd.) RICARDO M. TAN
President & Chief Executive Officer

12 August 2004

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People, Events & Products

Kadayawan Festival at SM City Davao

KADAYAWAN, which began as a celebration of life among indigenous people is one of the major festivals in Davao. It is also a time of thanksgiving for the gifts of nature, the wealth of culture, the bounties of harvest, and the serenity of living.

Derived from the word Madayaw, a warm and friendly greeting, Kadayawan was institutionalized in 1986. It was then called Apo Duwaling a word which fuses together three famous icons of the city - Mount Apo, the durian, and the waling-waling orchid. Two years later, it was named Kadayawan to highlight the spirit and indigenous theme of the celebration.

SM City Davao brings the Kadayawan celebrations to the mall this August with fun filled activities for shoppers.

The festival's first day, Monday, Aug. 16, begins with a big bang via a Kulintang Parade, where performers bring music to the mall with indigenous instruments like the agong.

There will also be a Mindanao Festival at the mall with exhibits and performances, sights and sounds of major festivals and eco-tourist destinations of the island.

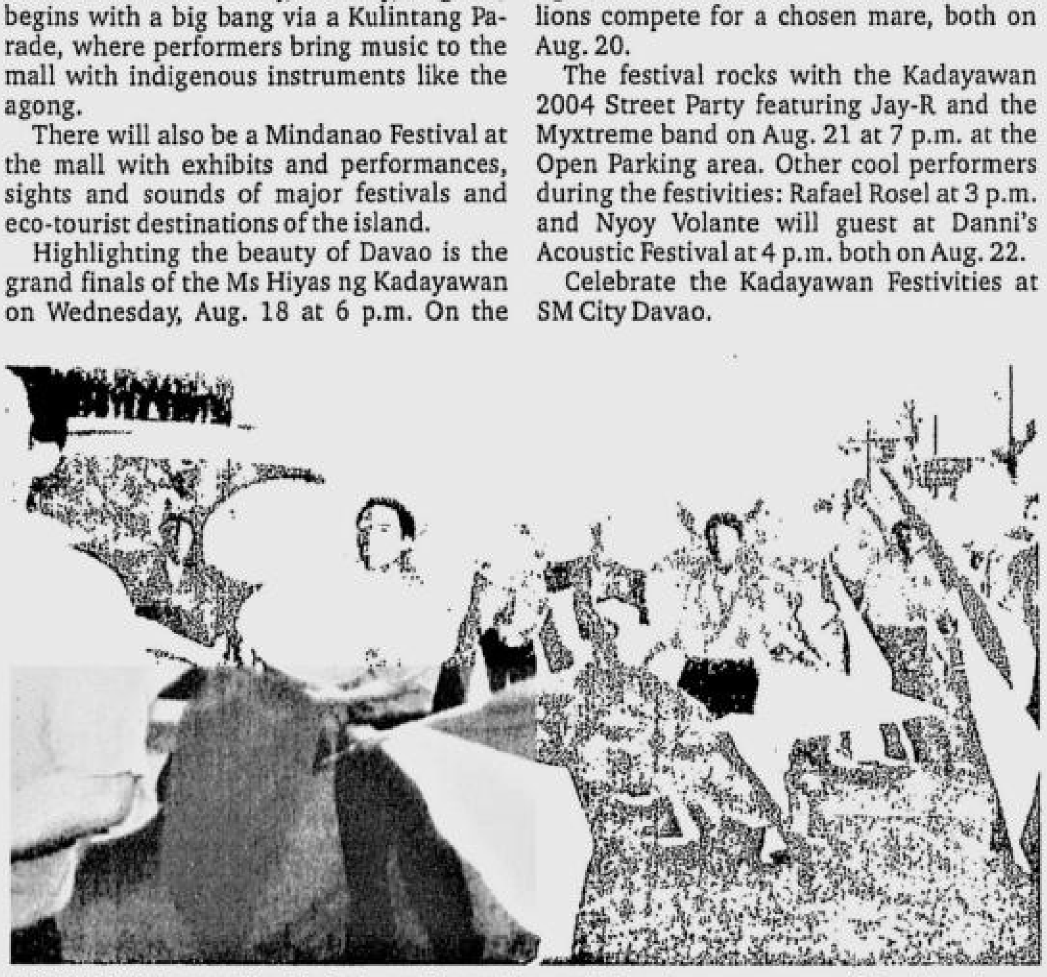
Highlighting the beauty of Davao is the grand finals of the Ms Hiyas ng Kadayawan on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. On the same day, the Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival, a theatrical tribute suite of dances and music inspired by Mindanao's folklore and tradition will have its preliminaries. The competition proper will take place on Aug. 18 to 19, and the grand finals on Aug. 20 at the SM City Davao Entertainment Plaza.

Fashion and flowers take place center stage from Aug. 19 to 22: the Hiyas ng Kadayawan Gown Exhibit of winning gowns by the beauty contest's finalists; and the 3rd Waling Waling Cup arrangement of floral entries organized by the Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants Inc.

More on Mindanao: the Davao Indigenous People's Festival showcasing ethnic songs and dances; and the Bagobo Horsefight, a tribal tradition wherein native stallions compete for a chosen mare, both on Aug. 20.

The festival rocks with the Kadayawan 2004 Street Party featuring Jay-R and the Myxtreme band on Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Open Parking area. Other cool performers during the festivities: Rafael Rosel at 3 p.m. and Nyoy Volante will guest at Danni's Acoustic Festival at 4 p.m. both on Aug. 22.

Celebrate the Kadayawan Festivities at SM City Davao.



A GROUP of dancers like this in the waling-waling orchid costumes are some of the attractions during the Kadayawan Festival in Davao.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PDIC BULLETIN NO. 2004 - 04

TO : MEMBER BANKS AND DEPOSITORS

SUBJECT : TREATMENT OF JOINT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS FOR PURPOSES OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND THE DETERMINATION OF INSURED DEPOSITS IN CASES WHERE DEPOSITORS HAVE OBLIGATIONS WITH THE CLOSED BANK

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9302 amending the Charter of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (RA 3591, as amended), which took effect on 12 August 2004, please be properly guided by the following interpretations with respect to the treatment of joint deposit accounts for deposit insurance purposes and the determination of insured deposits in cases where the depositors have obligations with the closed bank:

1) A joint account regardless of whether the conjunction *"and"*, *"or"* or *"and/or"* is used, shall be insured separately from an individually-owned deposit account.

2) If the account is held jointly by two or more natural persons, or by two or more juridical persons or entities, the maximum insured deposit shall be divided into as many equal shares as there are individuals, juridical persons or entities, unless a different sharing is stipulated in the document of deposit.

Document of deposit referred to in the preceding paragraph pertains to joint account agreements, account ledgers, certificate of time deposits, passbooks or other evidence of deposits, specimen signature cards, corporate resolutions, contracts or similar instruments, copies of which must be in the custody or possession of the bank upon takeover by PDIC.

3) If the account is held by a juridical person or entity jointly with one or more natural persons, the maximum insured deposit shall be presumed to belong entirely to the juridical person or entity.

4) The aggregate of the interests or total share of each co-owner over several joint accounts, whether owned by the same or different combinations of individuals, juridical persons or entities, shall likewise be subject to the maximum insured deposit of P250,000.00.

5) The amount of insurance due to any depositor for deposits in an insured bank shall be net of any matured or unmatured obligation of the depositor to the insured bank as of date of closure. In case of joint deposit accounts where only one of the co-depositors has an obligation to the closed bank, the following shall apply:

(a) Where the deposit is a joint "and/or" or "or" account which is covered by a hold-out agreement, the obligation secured by the hold-out agreement shall be deducted from the balance of the joint account, regardless of the fact that only one of the co-depositors in the joint account is indebted to the closed bank.

(b) When the deposit is a joint "and" account which is covered by a hold-out agreement, the obligation secured by the hold-out agreement shall be deducted only from the share in the joint account of the depositor who is indebted to the closed bank, unless his co-depositor is himself a co-signatory to the hold-out agreement.

(c) Where the deposit is either a joint "and", "or" or "and/or" account which is not covered by a hold-out agreement, the obligation of the depositor who is indebted to the closed bank shall be deducted only from his share in the balance of the joint deposit account.

For your guidance.

(Sgd.) RICARDO M. TAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

12 August 2004

B8

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PERSONAL

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO SAINT THERESA
Oh Glorious Saint Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind. I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you obtaining every need of body and soul. Our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles". Now fervently beseech you to answer my petition: (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you Amen. (Say prayer every day for 9 days. By 4th day, ask for a sign if prayer is to be answered Between 4th and 9th day, you will see a rose in magazine, TV picture or receive roses. You can also get a strong scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. Thank you ! -GDB

Shellane

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Wishes to announce Shellane LPG distributorship opportunities in:

Parts of Quezon City and of Novaliches , Tarlac

Applicants must be residents of the above-mentioned areas or should be willing to relocate. They must be aggressive, financially capable and willing to devote full-time attention to the business. Experience in LPG is an advantage.

Interested parties may send their application letter & bio-data on or before the 25th of August 2004 to:

LPG MARKETING DEPARTMENT
C/O Ms. Riagene Santos
9th Flr. Shellhouse Building
156 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

or call: 816 -6501 loc 6185

Let thousands of enterprises bloom, let millions of jobs grow!

The new government needs all the help it can muster in boosting employment in this country. The last statistics of the NSO indicate that there are five (5) million unemployed and six (6) million underemployed.

There are also over a million young workers entering the labor force every year. If job creation, through entrepreneurship and industrial expansion stops, then we shall have social and economic time bomb in the making.

And yet, we have the means to arrest and reverse the downward spiral of jobs and the economy. We have the natural resources and the talents.

We just have to get our acts together.

And yes, industry must share its ideas on how to bring about a revolution on jobs.

This is why the Summit is focused on measures to preserve, strengthen, upgrade and insure the survival and growth of industries themselves---for managing industries well is our primary job.

We are actually aware that only strong and competitive industries can keep the nation at work. We also want to tackle issues of industrial peace, for jobs cannot be preserved and sustained without peace at the workplace.

EMPLOYERS' SUMMIT ON EMPLOYMENT & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

NEGOSYO at TRABAHO

PARA SA BAYAN

23-24 August 2004 • Philippine Trade Training Center

DAY 1 AUGUST 23, MONDAY

AM SESSION

Opening of Exhibit and Trade Fair

Keynote Address

PPlenary Session 1:	Young Entrepreneurs in the Forefront of the Country's Development
Special Presentation 1:	Corporate Leadership in Population Management
Special Presentation 2:	Food Fortification

PM SESSION

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS:

Topic 1:	Reforming the Labor Code and the Labor Market for Employment and Competitiveness
Topic 2:	Gearing Education and Training Towards. Full Employment
Topic 3:	Revving Up MSMEs for Job Creation

DAY 2 AUGUST 24, TUESDAY

AM SESSION

Plenary Session 2:	Presentation of Workshop Outputs
Plenary Session 3:	Transforming Philippine Industries into Globally Competitive Players
Special Presentation 3:	A Fair Globalization-Creating Opportunities for All

Closing Ceremonies

Presidential Address
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

SPECIAL FEATURES
Trade Fair & Jobs Fair

MEDIA PARTNER INQUIRER

ORGANIZED BY:
EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS.: 897-9483, 890-5005 · TELEFAX: 897-4010

Guaranteed pit dominance with new fighting cock feed

IN COCKFIGHTING, lucky is not enough. There are other equally important factors in winning: Proper conditioning and advanced nutrition. That is what today's Farmer's Edge offers with the addition of a feed intended solely for fighting cocks - Cocker's Edge - for maximum pit dominance!

From an extensive study conducted by Fil-Am Foods, Inc., maker of high-quality feeds Farmer's Edge, they found out the real thing that cockers are looking for in a gamecock feed. They transformed this discovery into a product that would provide the total solution to all fighting cock aficionados.

Cocker's Edge offers three exceptional packages of gamefowl feeds to sustain gaming cocks towards proper development.

Cocker's Edge Stag Developer is intended for ideal body frame. It promotes proper development of bones, muscles and connective tissues important in building strength and stamina.

Pre-Conditioner is for bone and muscle strength. With this feed, body built is maintained. It contains proper balance of calcium and phosphorus needed to achieve bones and muscle strength.

Conditioner on one hand increases endurance and strength, thus, delaying onset of fatigue. It likewise increases energy production for carbohydrates and fatty acids. It serves as an energy reserve in the muscle cells. Cocker's Edge Conditioner also enhances stamina and vigor and protects cellular membranes from extensive damage.

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EARN PART TYM 09169368917

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with Serious work experience
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In the Business World, everyone is paid in 2 coins: Cash & experience. Take the experience 1st; the cash will come later. Do u want to know how? Text 0919-8967737

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUGUST 24, 2004 • TUESDAY • 2:00 p.m.
PLAZA LETICIA • 2nd Floor
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

CABANATUAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150sqm.
Lot 11 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150sqm.
Lot 12 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375sqm.
L22 B39 Antonio St. Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 713,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Floor Area: 15 sqm.
L2B16 31St St., Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 562,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5 sqm.
L6 B17 Valeriano St. Kapt Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5 sqm.
L7 B17 Valeriano St., Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 375sqm.
Floor Area: 154 sqm.
Lot 30 Blk 30 Assisi St. Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 3,123,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375sqm.
L28 B45 Calvitus St., Kapt Pepe Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 892,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 220sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 7, Brgy. Daang Sarile
Minimum Bid Price: 225,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 317sqm.
L 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-N, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 265,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 299sqm.
Floor Area: 135 sqm.
L3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,126,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 367 sqm.
Lot 8 Block 5 Victoria Park Subd., Bitas
Minimum Bid Price: 523,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 241 sqm.
Lot 18 / Blk 2 Wednesday St. Rfg Subd. Brgy. Caridad
Minimum Bid Price: 410,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 285sqm.
Lot 339-C-5-N-8 Nos. 768,769,771, 772 Purok IV San Nicolas Subdivision Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 121,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 620sqm.
Lot 350-G-1 Sarenas St. Sangitan Este
Minimum Bid Price: 2,405,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,522 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 2240-A #498 Arenas St. (Dama De Noche), Bgry. Mayapyap Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 533,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 324 sqm.
Lot 7 Along Prov'l Road Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 1,296,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 855sqm.
Lot 3965-A, F Romero St. Kalikid Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 146,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443sqm.
Floor Area: 219 sqm.
Lot 1411-B Paco Roman St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 6,789,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 520sqm.
Floor Area: 116 sqm.
L5B K-1-54 Santol St. Villa BenitaSubd
Minimum Bid Price: 1,067,000.00

BONGABON

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,280 sqm.
Lot 510-P & Lot 510-Q Brgy. Macabaclay
Minimum Bid Price: 55,000.00

GEN. NATIVIDAD

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300sqm.
Lot 4 / Blk 5 Galang Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 39,000.00

LLANERA

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 66, # 295 Valmonte St., Brgy Victoria, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,302 sqm.
Lot 1810-C-2 Brgy. San Esteban
Minimum Bid Price: 88,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,229 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 6 Brgy Bicos
Minimum Bid Price: 261,000.00

PANTABANGAN

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 470sqm.
Lot 433, Blk. 3, Brgy. Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 473sqm.
Lot 735 Poblacion East
Minimum Bid Price: 81,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 385sqm.
Lot 471, Cadena De Amor St., Purok 3, Brgy. Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 33,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 329sqm.
Lot 1016 Poblacion West
Minimum Bid Price: 63,000.00

SAN JOSE CITY

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429sqm.
Lot 1769-A Bonifacio St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 1,305,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,188 sqm.
Lot 2008-A-3 B Saturnino St., Sibut
Minimum Bid Price: 1,515,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 349sqm.
Lot 1629-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 830,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 570,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 685,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 20,000sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7 Bgy. A. Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 340,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 440sqm.
Lot 1669-A A.O. Pascual St., Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,135,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198sqm.
Lot 4 & Lot 5 / Blk 2 Curamen Monte Verde Heights, Barangay Sibut
Minimum Bid Price: 253,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360sqm.
Floor Area: 126 sqm.
Lots 7&8 Blk 15 Molave & Anonas Sts. Josephine Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 930,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 115sqm.
L 2/ B 3 Curamen-Monte Verde Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 219,000.00

CARANGLAN

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,258 sqm.
Lot 8, Brgy. San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 477sqm.
Lot 2&3, Bonifacio St. Brgy. Burgos
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240sqm.
Lot 5, Purok 5 Brgy. Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LUPAO

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 425sqm.
Floor Area: 122 sqm.
Lot 11/Blk 14, Carpio St. Pob West
Minimum Bid Price: 480,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 720 sqm.
Lot 1024-T-26 & Lot 1024-T-25 Brgy San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 62,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,152 sqm.
Lot 1298-F San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 148,000.00

MUÑOZ

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,818.75 sqm.
Lot 1678-A, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy. Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 2,738,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,023 sqm.
Lot 1386-G, Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 696,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,020 sqm.
Lot 1386-H Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 867,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,168 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1386-J & Lot 1386-I Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 1,997,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 363sqm.
Floor Area: 123 sqm.
Lot 4-A-1 San Sebastian St
Minimum Bid Price: 1,240,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,350 sqm.
L 7-B, Purok Matalungin Brgy. Bagong Sikat
Minimum Bid Price: 429,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,593 sqm.
Lot 1280-B-6-L-6 Gabaldon
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 783sqm.
Lot No. 1672-J Maharlika Hi-Way
Minimum Bid Price: 1,075,000.00

TALAVERA

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,849 sqm.
Lot 184-B-7 Barangay Maestrang Kikay
Minimum Bid Price: 295,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 665sqm.
Floor Area: 53 sqm.
Lot 48-A-3-B & Lot 48-A-2-A-1-B Interior Brgy. San Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 293,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 441sqm.
Lot 801-F, Quezon St., Brgy. Maestrang Kikay, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 383sqm.
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Lot 302-B-19 Marcos District, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 440,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200sqm.
Lot 302-B-18 Marcos District, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,796 sqm.
Lot 136-A-2, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy. Calipahan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,617,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 12,211.5 sqm.
Lot 91 Brgy. Bacal II, Maharlika Highway
Minimum Bid Price: 4,293,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,251 sqm.
Lot 1271 Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,616 sqm.
Lot 1300 No. 523 Purok 2, Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 294,000.00

GUIMBA

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 528sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 32 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 33 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 406sqm.
Lot 16 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 104,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 448sqm.
Lot 34 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 115,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,537 sqm.
Lot 2036-B, Brgy San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,503 sqm.
Lot 537-C-1, Brgy. Cabaruan
Minimum Bid Price: 141,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 787 sqm.
Floor Area: 66 sqm.
Lots 1298-A-2 & 1298-B-2 #92 Interior P. Ramos St. Sto. Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 507,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,524 sqm.
Lot 2036-E, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,410 sqm.
Lot 1334-C-2-B, Lot 1334-C-2-C, Lot 1334-C-2-D Brgy. Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 660,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 149sqm.
Lot 1143-A-7, Int. Medina St., San Veronica Dist., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 931sqm.
Lot 3761-D-2 & 3761-D-3 Balingog West
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

STO. DOMINGO

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 394sqm.
L2352-A #54 Pedro Pascual St. Cabugao
Minimum Bid Price: 412,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 346sqm.
Lot 3, Prov'L Rd. Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 83,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379sqm.
Lot 4 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 91,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 412sqm.
Lot 5 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 445sqm.
Lot 6 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 106,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 479sqm.
Lot 7 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 512sqm.
Lot 8 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 122,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 545sqm.
Lot 9 Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 578sqm.
Lot 10, Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 792sqm.
Lot 1, Prov'L Rd Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 472,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325sqm.
Lot 313-F Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 650sqm.
Floor Area: 75 sqm.
L 313-B & L 313-D Brgy. Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 424,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 5,348 sqm.
Floor Area: 300 sqm.
L2778-A P. Pascual & J. Garcia Sts. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 5,442,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,831 sqm.
Lot 3334-C Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 159,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 741sqm.
Lot 3334-B Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 15,499sqm.
Lot 827 Brgy. Gen. Luna
Minimum Bid Price: 349,000.00

LICAB

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,083 sqm.
Lot A, Sitio Bantug Na Munti San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 331,000.00

STA. ROSA

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,500 sqm.
Lot 2727-C-2-A, Brgy Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 191,100sqm.
Lot Nos. 2197, 2203, 2202 Bgy Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 1,494,000.00

JAEN

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,216 sqm.
Lot 2575, Burgos St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 207,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,759 sqm.
Floor Area: 190 sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd. Cor. Nueva St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 3,201,000.00

GAPAN

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300sqm.
Lot-4-A-1A, #04 Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 372 sqm.
Lot 3925 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 1,395,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 405sqm.
Lot 3922 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,519,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,171 sqm.
Lot 1&2 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 4,392,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 244sqm.
Floor Area: 58 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 7 P. Cruz Subd. Brgy. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 378sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 568-A, # 144 Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 772sqm.
L 3571-F, Brgy. Puting Tubig, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 66,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90,000sqm.
Lot 4728-C-6, Sitio Makatulang Brgy. Makabaklay
Minimum Bid Price: 338,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 396sqm.
Floor Area: 128 sqm.
Lot 8-F 750 De Guzman Subd. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 584,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 269sqm.
Floor Area: 30 sqm.
Lot 504-I-6 P. Cruz, Brgy. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

SAN ANTONIO

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,328 sqm.
Lot 1059-A-1 San Mariano West
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429sqm.
Lot 805-E Brgy. San Mariano
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

SAN LEONARDO

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 645sqm.
Floor Area: 108 sqm.
Lot 717, Brgy San Bartolome (Burgos)
Minimum Bid Price: 246,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,991 sqm.
LOT B-1, Brgy. Tabuating Maharlika Hway
Minimum Bid Price: 592,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 360sqm.
Lot 2976-F Castellano
Minimum Bid Price: 270,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 204sqm.
L30B2 Ma. Cristina Village, Brgy. Malapit
Minimum Bid Price: 226,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,186 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1-C # 279 P Carmen St. Brgy. Alua
Minimum Bid Price: 504,000.00

CABIAO

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 8,622 sqm.
L334, Old Prov'l. Road San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,017,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 882sqm.
Lot 4 Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 187,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 726sqm.
Floor Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 438-F-2, Gapan Olongapo Rd, San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 683,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,513 sqm.
Floor Area: 120 sqm.
Lot 721-A-1, Brgy. Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408sqm.
Lot 198-A-9-G & Lot 198-A-2, San Antonio, Bagong Buhay
Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443sqm.
Floor Area: 103 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Brgy. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 555,000.00

PEÑARANDA

LOT 122 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,710sqm.
Lot 3172 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00

GUARANTEED FINANCING • FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10 YEARS • 10% DOWNPAYMENT FOR LOTS • 25% DOWNPAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
SHOW MONEY: PhP25,000.00 CASH, MC or GOLD CREDIT CARD. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING
PLEASE CALL AMG-PNB INQUIRY DESK: Tel. no. (02) 832-2562; (02)834-1493; (02) 526-3131 Locals: 4539 Ashley; 7212 Yen; 4537 Ross; 4538 Vanes; 4726 Becky; • Ross 0920-602-6933; Vanes 0918-415-0999 Ashley 0916-579-5478; ; Veronica (044) 463-3365; Roshena(044) 464-1916 • DOMESTIC TOLL FREE NO. 1-800-10-555-8888

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS
AUCTION MANAGER

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with POEA Rules & Regulations, we wish to inform the public that the following persons ceased to be connected with **ARPAPHIL SHIPPING CORP.** as from the date indicated opposite their name:

LOURDES C. VILA – 02 Feb. 2004 (Terminated for cause)
BLENDA C. POLOAN – 23 May 2004 (Resigned)
CYRIL D. RAMOS – 15 Nov. 2003 (Resigned)
ROJANE O. RIÑON – 24 Jun. 2004 (Resigned)

THE MANAGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province Ilocos Norte
City/Municipality: Banna (Espiritu)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **Lerma Caluya Papa** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **AQUILINA** to **LERMA** in the birth certificate of **Lerma Caluya Papa** who was born on **4 January 1959** in **Banna, Ilocos Norte** and whose parents are **Santiago Caluya** and **Socorro Guarda.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **24 August 2004.**

(Sgd.) **JUDY RABAGO MADES**
City/Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Aug. 12 & 19, 2004)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of X-Ray Machine and Ultrasound Machine for the University Health Service (UHS) with an approved budget of 2 M and 1.5 M, respectively.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of qualification requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC-SEC) Office at the International House Complex, UP, Los Baños upon payment of a bidding fee of Php 200.00.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	**August 16-23**/8:30 am - 5 pm	BAC-SEC
Submission of Pre-bid Reqm'ts	**August 25, 2004**/ Up to 4:30 pm	BAC-SEC
Pre-Bid Conference	**August 27, 2004** Fri./2:30 pm	BAC-SEC
Opening/Submission of Bids	**September 3, 2004** Fri./2:30 pm	BAC-SEC

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any effect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Alessandro Manilay, BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (49) 536-8419 or (49) 536-8420.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA M. ESPINO**
Chair, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 5 & 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Philippines

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
Petitioner.

–versus–

SEC ADM. CASE No. 06-04-77
CED Case No. 04-2796

UK IMMIGRANT FACILITATOR & INVESTOR CONSULTANCY, INC.
Respondent.

x- -x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:

CARIDAD C. SAMBUANG – 23 St. John St., JPA Subdivision, Muntinlupa City;
MARGARITA B. TUAL – Bl Santiago Apartment, Monique St., Villa Cristina Subdivision, Pamplona, Las Piñas City
CARINA C. MANGAHAS – 3575-A Mangistrado Imperial St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, City of Manila
MILA D. BLANCO – 1631 Int. 14 F. Varona St., Tondo, Manila
RYAN C. SAMBUANG – 23 St. John St., JPA Subd., Muntinlupa City

GREETINGS:

You are hereby summoned and required to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, within forty (40) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your answer to the **PETITION**, a copy of which is hereto reproduced, and to serve a copy of your answer within the same period, upon the Compliance and Enforcement Department of the Securities and Exchange Commission. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the **PETITION.**

Mandaluyong City, Philippines

July 29, 2004.

(Sgd.) **VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO**
General Counsel

(PDI–August 12, 2004)

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exel

FOR SALE

1 UNIT SILENT TYPE GENERATOR SET 630 KVA
PRICE : PHP 2.2M (NEG)

1 UNIT ELECTRIC 3 WHEELS FORKLIFT
PRICE : PHP 1.5m (NEG)

1 SET CCTV AND AUDIBLE INTRUDER ALARM (27 UNITS CAMERA)
PRICE : PHP700K (NEG)

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SEND THEIR PROPOSAL TO GRACE PALOMAR AT 8TH FLOOR NOL TOWERS COMMERCE AVENUE, MADRIGAL, BUSINESS PARK, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY.

- ***IN EXCELLENT CONDITION***
- ***AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS***
- ***EXCLUSIVE OF VAT***
- ***EXCLUSIVE OF DELIVERY AND HANDLING CHARGES***

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact:

DARIO M. BUAN
IAN L. ENCARNACION
TEL # 772-2852 LOC 407/201

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2004-186	1 lot supply, delivery and assembly of the following:		
	• Strength Gym Equipment	P 1,759.200.00	LBP Funds
	• Cardiovascular Gym Equipment	P 1,274,000.00	LBP Funds
	• Free Weights Gym Equipment	P 966,800.00	LBP Funds
2004-189	1 lot One (1) unit Power Transformer, 3,750KV Delta/480V Wye, 3-Phase, Oil Immersed, Pad Mounted, ALSTHOM, to include the dismantling/ pull out of the defective unit, relocation of other electrical equipment to give way for delivery, installation, supply of the necessary parts, equipment and components, commissioning and energization	P 4,500,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on September 8, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on August 26, 2004, at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI–August 12 & 19, 2004)

MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS
EXTERIORES
Y COOPERACION

AECI
AGENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE
COPERACION INTERNACIONAL

Oportunidad de Empleo

La Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional convoca 1 Plaza de Administrativo Contable.

Selección: Concurso Oposición.
Requisitos: Licenciado en Recursos humanos, Administración de empresas o equivalente.

Bases de la convocatoria:
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI) 28-B Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City y en su pagina web: www.aeci.ph
Embajada de España: 5th Floor A.C.T tower 135 Gen J.Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Instituto Cervantes: 2515 Leon Guinto Corner Estrada Strs. Malate, Manila.

Oficina Comercial Española: 22/F Yuchengco tower, RCBC Plaza, Senador Gil Puyat Avenue corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
Plazo de solicitud: 22 de Agosto de 2004.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Sealed bids for the sale of one (1) lot of unserviceable properties stored at NPO Pier, Port Area, Manila and COMELEC Main Office, Postigo St., Intramuros, Manila, shall be received at COMELEC Session Hall at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, **August 25, 2004** at which date, time and place, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the Disposal Committee, COA Resident Auditor or his representative/s, attending-bidders and the public. Bids shall be signed by the bidders enclosed in a sealed envelope.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid offer, in the form of cash or manager's/cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections".

Prospective bidders may view said properties for sale beginning **August 16, 2004** at NPO Pier and COMELEC Main Office during regular office hours.

The Commission on Elections reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any defect thereon, without need of explanation.

August 10, 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JAIME Z. PAZ**
Chairman
Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila on August 17, 2004 (Tuesday) of the hereunder listed machine. Said item shall be available for public viewing on August 16, 2004 (Monday).

In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items, which may be auctioned again on the following business day. When at least two of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten (10%) percent of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidders shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two (2) hours from the awarding of the won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidders who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) pesos and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 pm and will close at 2:00 pm.

For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone number 528-60-00 local 459.

LOT#	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
034-04	Three (3) lines of Replicating Machines (Note:Subject for re-exportation)	Php 6,000,000.00

(Sgd.) Atty. **RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI – August 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KALAHI-CIDSS SOCIAL MARKETING PLAN

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for the flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites qualified media agencies to submit Expressions of Interest and qualifications statement with supporting documents for the position of Consultants for the Implementation of the KALAHI-CIDSS Social Marketing Plan.

The Consultant to be hired is expected to:

1. To develop a creative media plan that will enhance the impact of the message of promoting the DSWD KALAHI-CIDSS program, taking off from the project social marketing plan;
2. To maximize the available budget by negotiating for additional media values.
3. Plan and buy media for the DSWD;
4. Negotiate with media suppliers and other entities on behalf of DSWD;
5. Present to DSWD and seek approval for the media plan;
6. Revise plans and programs when necessary;
7. To implement the media plan in a timely manner and within the target dates as follows:

   LAUNCH PHASE : 05 September – 03 October 2004
8. Evaluate the impact of the campaign and submit written documentation.

The Consultant shall report directly to the National Project Director and should meet the following qualifications and documentation requirements:

Qualifications	Documentation Requirements
• Duly registered/licensed/accredited media agency with at least 2 years existence as a firm	SEC registration and/or other documents as proof of company existence
• Has the organizational capability and resources to carry out the requirements of this TOR as indicated by the general qualifications and competence of key personnel to be assigned to this project. The project requires at least 3 personnel to be assigned to the project for the duration of the contract 1. Team Leader (Media Director) 2. 2 Personnel (Planner and Buyer)	Names of personnel to be assigned to the project highlighting the education and training, nature and length of experiences, types of position held, time with the firm and suitability to perform the duties of the particular assignments
• With satisfactory track record in contract services provision as evidenced by record of previous engagement and quality of performance in similar and/or related projects.	Corporate profiles including the details of previous engagement in pro-bono advertising.

In addition to the Expressions of Interest, interested bidders are required to submit a qualification statement with the following document to be attached:

- Audited financial statement of the firm for the last two years;

Interested proponents may submit their Expressions of Interest, Company profile and sample works to Bids and Awards Committees Secretariat at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone numbers: 951-71-16 until August 13, 2004 at 5:00 PM.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 12, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(REBIDDING)

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites authorized distributors/suppliers and manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 60 ton electronic truckscale in the following areas:

Lot	Qty	Project Type	Place	Approved Budget
1	1 unit	60 Ton Pitless Type	Rosales, Pangasinan	P 9,600,000.00
	1 unit	60 Ton Pit Type	Tikay, Malolos City	
	1 unit	60 Ton Pitless Type	Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	
2	1 unit	60 Ton Pitless Type	Antipolo City	P 9,600,000.00
	1 unit	60 Ton Pitless Type	Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro	
	1 unit	60 Ton Pitless Type	Pili, Camarines Sur	

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Bidding Activities	Date
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	August 6 to 13, 2004
Pre-Bidding Conference	August 20, 2004 10:00 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	September 2, 2004
– Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	Deadline: 10:00 AM

Each bidder shall enclose a Bidder's Security in any of the following Schedule of Amount

A.	Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	1% of the Approved Budget
B.	Bank Guarantee	1.5% of the Approved Budget
C.	Surety Bond	2.5% of the Approved Budget
D.	Foreign Guarantee	100% of the Approved Budget

Eligibility requirements and Bidding Documents may be secured from the BAC Secretariat at the following offices:

- NFA Central Office, 5th Floor, OAAS, Tel. No. 712-1701 (Ray)
- NFA Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, Tel. No. (044) 463-1233 (William)

Bidding documents shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P6,000.00 per lot.

It is required that the prospective bidders must have a single largest contract – completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bidded – whose value, adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference for both Lots will be at the NFA-HRMD Training Room, 7th Floor Central Office. Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the **National Food Authority, Regional Office, Cabanatuan City Farmers Training Center for both Lots.**

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the government.

NFA assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Asst. Adm. for Stabilization and
Chairman, BAC for Luzon

(PDI – August 5 & 12, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number : SEMP'02-DepED-BEFP-2004-001

August 9, 2004
Loan No. 7118 PH

Project Title : CY 2002 Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) 10% Unallocated Portion
Contract Title : Construction of Two Storey, Six Classrooms at Don Jose Monfort Memorial High School, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).
2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the Construction of Two (2) Storey, Six (6) Classrooms at Don Jose Monfort Memorial High School, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo.
3. For purposes of this bid, eligible bidders must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.
4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting August 16, 2004 upon submission of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Tel. No. 636-6543; or at DepED Iloilo Division Office, Luna St., Iloilo City. A complete set of bid documents will be available for a non-refundable fee of: Php 3,000.00.
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Works.
6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee; cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.
7. Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening dates are as follows:

Venue	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
DepED Iloilo Division Office, Luna St., Iloilo City	August 31, 2004, 2:00 PM	September 16, 2004, 10:00 AM

8. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid; or to annul the bidding process or reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI–Aug. 12 & 19, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **August 24, 2004**, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following items:

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and used laboratory and office equipment, electronic devices such as; computers, printers, projector, plotter, typewriters, calculators, fax-machines, drafting-machines, broken-tables, broken-chairs, and worn-out automotive spare parts, discarded electrical-wirings and fixtures located at NPC Head Office Warehouse, Quezon City, at NPC Port Area Warehouse, Manila, and at NPC Mexico Central Warehouse, Pampanga Province.	P 202,200.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and used conveyor belts, air-heater-coils, assorted scrap metals such as boiler-tubes, air-heater-elements, wire-ropes, angle bars, etc., and used office equipment located at BCFTPP, Calaca, Batangas Province.	P 251,600.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and junk air-heater-elements, and assorted scrap metals like pipes, plates, angle bars and aluminum, Located at Malaya TPP, Pililla, Rizal Province.	P 227,500.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot of Industrial Chemicals, consisting of Hydro-Chloric-Acid (HCl) 35% and Sodium-Hydroxide (NaOH), 50%, Located at BTPP, Barangay Luz, Limay, Bataan Province.	P 43,200.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

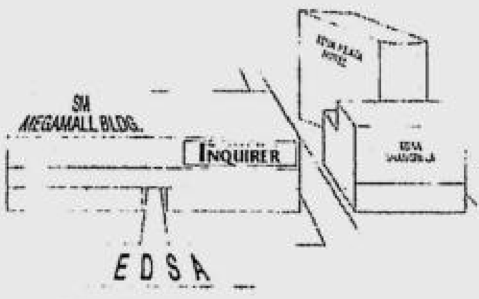
Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM Aug. 16, 2004.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI-August 10, 11 & 12, 2004)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Mandaluyong branch is open to serve
your Classified Ads requirements.



MANDALUYONG BRANCH
SM MEGAMALL 5TH LEVEL, BLDG. B, EDSA
TEL. NO.: 635-0219 / 637-2008
Contact Persons: Joy, Arnold, Randy & Arnel

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory on the Occasion
of the 27th Death Anniversary

JUAN P. GARCIA

26 October 1909 – 12 August 1977

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Most Holy Redeemer Parish Brixton Hill, Quezon City	6:00 am
Sanctuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati	6:15 am
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City	8:00 am
Carmelite Monastery Lipa City, Batangas	4:00 pm
Mary Queen of Peace Edsa Shrine, Quezon City	7:00 pm

Message of Thanks
from the family of
the late

FISCAL JOSE "PEPE" B. SARENAS

of Cabanatuan City & General Santos City
Law Class 1947 Upsilon Sigma Phi

We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to all relatives, friends, schoolmates, fraternity brothers, colleagues in the profession for being with us in our time of sorrow, for the flowers, mass cards and messages of sympathy, for attending the masses and funeral rites. We are truly overwhelmed by the kindness & support of everyone.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

RODOLFO D. FLORENDO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 10, 2004 at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife **Malou L. Florendo**; children. **Honoree**, **John** and **Angie**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 14, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Peter Memorial Chapels.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
*The newly opened Mortuary & Crematory at the Heritage Park
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr.

and the

Members of the House of Representatives

mourn the passing away of a former colleague

HONORABLE NESTOR C. PONCE, JR.

Congressman, 1st District, Manila
1998 - 2001

on August 8, 2004 at the age of 53.

His remains will be brought to the Plenary Hall, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, for a Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2004.

After the Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at the House of Representatives, his remains will be brought back to Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Saturday, 14 August 2004, at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Funeraria Paz.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**
>
> — John 3:16

JOSEFA (PING) RAMOS DELA RAMA

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 11, 2004 at the age of 73.

Her bereaved family, husband **HORACIO**; parents **EMERITO & SUSANA RAMOS** (†);

Children

JOJO & MITA
MARIJO & MJ MENDOZA
MARICAR
FR. SALTY DELA RAMA, S.J.
SUSIELOU
NOEL

Grandchildren

MIGGY, ANINA, RAMON (†), GAEL & JOAQUIN

Brothers & Sisters

JUNIOR & NIT RAMOS
TONY & CHINKIE RAMOS
MENIE & RUDY LEDESMA
VIC & TOTI TANJUATCO
BABY (†) & MARIE RAMOS
BOY & LILETTE RAMOS
SUSIE & JOHNNY MONTERMOSO

Other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Vista Valley Court, #1 Alta Vista, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 15, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematory, Marikina, after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, Donations to the Arayat Institute or Poor Claire Federation of the Philippines will be highly appreciated.

west

28/F Export Plaza Bldg
Sen Gil Puyat Avenue cor Chino Roces
Makati City Philippines 1200
makatijobs@west.com
www.west.com

West Contact Services Inc.

My warmest greetings to the men and women of West Contact Services Inc. (WCSI) as you hold the inauguration of your new state-of-the-art call center facilities.

This strength of our investment climate rests in great part on how we turn the realities of the global and regional environment into our advantage. Thus, I am gladdened to note that your company is constantly adapting itself to the realities of global competition as shown by your steadfast growth and the inauguration of this world-class call center facilities.

In these challenging times, economies have exhausted the possibilities of the division of labor and the way forward now is a better educated and more adaptable workforce. Join me in creating jobs and livelihood opportunities for 10 million Filipinos by spurring growth in a thriving service sector that is the backbone of a dynamic and robust economy.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Our warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the management and staff of West Contact Services Inc. (WCSI) on the inauguration of your new state-of-the-art call center facilities at the Export Bank Plaza Building, Makati City.

It is heartening to note that in just a short period of time from mid-February 2004, WCSI, as a leading provided of outsourced communication solutions to many of the world's largest companies, has grown its manpower from 200 to 700 customer and technical service respresentatives by July this year.

This endeavor is truly a welcome development for the Philippine call center industry as it supprots our thrust of fast tracking the creation of an ICT corridor in the country while at the same time boosting our prospects for becoming the leading contact center hub in the world. In addition, the Filipinos' edge in their proficiency of the English language, high IT literacy, strong customer orientation and trainability should also be a major contributor to this cause.

Through this endeavor, we expect not only to draw in more local and foreign clients to our IT services offering but also to project our local IT ourtsourcing services industry as a strong and capable sector that can deliver value proposition to clients. Indeed, this puts us another step ahead in our efforts to actualize the full potential of IT services as a dynamic pillar for economic progress in the Philippines today.

Over the last five years, we have witnessed the growth of the IT-enabled services industry into one of our strongest export sectors, and the positioning of the Philippines on the global IT industry map as an important outsourcing services provider, consequently generating jobs for thousands of talented young Filipino software designers, engineers, artists and animators, and other professionals in the IT-enabled services.

To WCSI, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for success.

Mabuhay!

CESAR V. PURISIMA
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

I convey my warmest congratulations to the management and staff of West Contact Services Inc. on the inauguration of their new state-of-the-art call center facilities. I recognize that this occasion is a milestone not only for the call center industry in the Philippines but also for our very own workers who continue to live up to the Filipino's zealous pursuit for competence, good work ethics, and facility with the English language.

I would like to laud your unwavering confidence in the Filipino worker as you establish deeper business roots in the country. This, I believe, sets the pace for building a work environment for high-value type of work such as complex technical support, financial advisory, and complex travel-related services. These create better employment opportunities among our workers, a much needed response to address our goal of full employment.

In achieving this goal, government actively works together with educational institutions to ensure that the workforce requirements of he industry are met. However, there is more groundwork to cover in terms of improving workers' English communication skills and knowledge of global business trends and technology and in ensuring acceptable working conditions for our workers.

I therefore urge business leaders not to lose sight of the social dimension of engaging in business of investing in human capital and guaranteeing decent work for all. By doing so, you affirm our partnership toward development as well as uphold your role as stakeholders in creating a capable, highly qualified, and satisfied workforce.

Mabuhay!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

It is with great pride that I extend my warmest greetings to West Contact Services Inc. as a new member of the PEZA family. It also gives me great pleasure to congratulates West Contact Services Inc. on the inauguration of its state-o-the-art call center facility.

PEZA as well as the Export Bank Plaza Special Economic Zone and IT building are proud to be host to one of the biggest call center companies in the United States that has put up an operation in the Philippines.

We are indeed grateful to have West Contact Services Inc. as a partner in our mission to provide quality employment to our people.

I am glad of the success in the initial operations of West Contact Services Inc. in the country, and I am confident that this success is just the beginning of greater things to come for West Contact Services Inc.

Again, congratulations and Mabuhay!

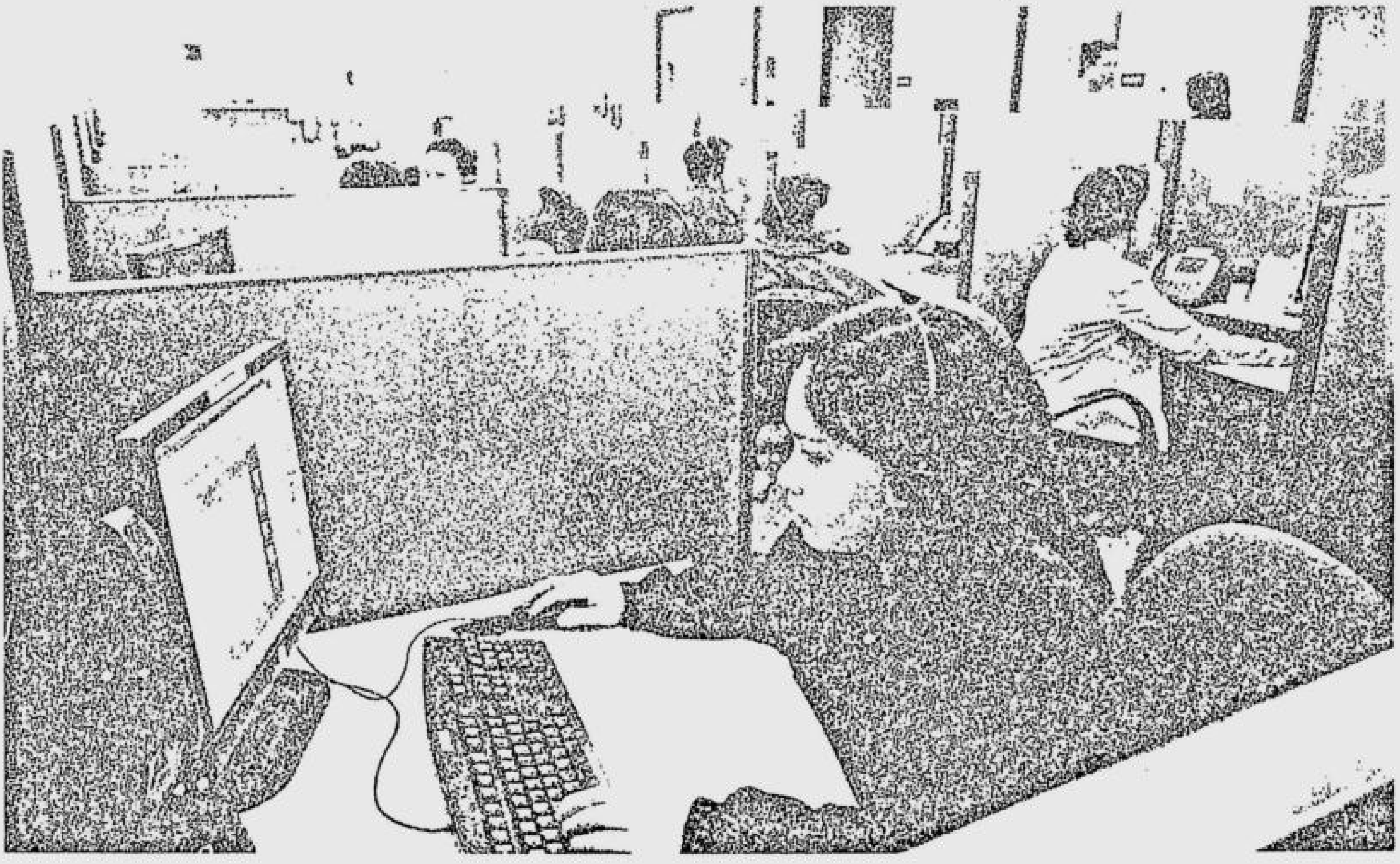
LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Seated(from left): Anton Guatlo,Ivy Lee,Karen Rigoroso,Kookai Apilado,Karen Labina
Standing(from left): Patrick Tanjangco,Pinky Cochico,Marivic Roldan,Frederick Garcia,Exx Maramara,Alex Logarta, Scot Clyde,Beth Carabuena, Tadz Infantado

WEST CONTACT SERVICES, INC.

Providing total customer management solution

Text by Marlet D. Salazar
Photos by Randy Hormillosa



THE CALL center industry is thriving globally and Western companies have recognized the benefits of outsourcing to other countries, especially Asia. It was nearly three years ago when US-based West Corporation, the parent company of West Contact Services Inc., initially began their probe into a possible offshore location in the Philippines. According to Beth Carabuena, General Manager of West Contact Services Inc., West Corporation's executives saw the potential of a Philippines presence and began preparations for its Makati City office in August of last year.

West Contact Services currently occupies three floors in the Export Bank Building at the corner of Pasong Tamo Ext. and Gil Puyat Avenue. As it marks its inauguration today, West Contact Services currently employees 900 agents servicing its clients' worldwide customers, with plans to grow their employment base to approximately 1,500.

West Corporation, based in Omaha, Nebraska, has over 27,000 employees throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Founded in 1986, West Corporation has built its organization into a leading provider of outsourced communication solutions for many of the world's largest companies. The company helps its clients communicate effectively, maximize the value of their customer relationships and drive greater revenue from each transaction. West's integrated suite of customized solutions includes customer acquisition, customer care and retention services, interactive voice response services, conferencing and accounts receivable management services.

Fusion of fluency and technical skill

The global outsourcing of call center activities to the Philippines has provided many job opportunities to the people of this country. "It provides employment for the Filipinos," Carabuena said, "It is a mix of those who have call center experience and those who have not."

The profile of West's applicants ranges from fresh graduates, undergraduates with call center experience and in some instances even professionals who have good communication and comprehension skills.

"To service our client's application requirements, we look for individuals who have background in computer science and engineering," said Marivic Roldan, Human Resources Director of West Contact Services.

Always striving for excellence, West Contact Services prepares the newly hired employees with extensive training. Speaking the English language is a requirement of all employees at the Makati City facility. "We want to make sure that we are hiring the right person because of the demands of the job," said Roldan. A newly hired call center agent goes through speech training to help neutralize the Filipino accent. "It's not intended for the agents to speak like an American but for them to be more understandable when conversing with the client's customers," she added.

Agent's calls are monitored at random by quality assurance supervisors to ensure established standards of excellence are adhered to. "The ability to listen attentively and talk fluently should be combined along with the technical skill," said Carabuena who has 30-years of experience in the telecommunications industry.

"We commit to developing the workforce here in Manila," Roldan said, "to help them become better professionals and individuals because of the values they learn here."

West Contact Services processes an average of 200 applications per working day providing the opportunity to individuals seeking a career in the growing call center industry.

"The management team here at West Contact Services is committed to the development of all employees by providing them the foundation to a better life and being of service to the community," Carabuena said.

> West Contact Services processes an average of 200 applications per working day providing the opportunity to individuals seeking a career in the growing call center industry.

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Dreaming of the 'F word'

Aspiring racers throttle for their dreams in a blur of speed

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of two parts)

F to the F via F. Off with that funny face. That's just a shortcut for the statement "Filipinos to the Formula races via the Ford Lynx Cup."

Shudder at the thought of insane Filipino drivers making short work of public roads, weaving in and out of traffic and driving like there's no tomorrow. But look at the bright side. This volatile energy can be redirected to the lucrative and glamorous sport of Formula racing. The "rerouting" of this dangerous habit can now be felt, if you happen to be at the right place at the right time.

Aspiring racers

More Filipinos now aspire to enter the formula races than ever before. Even before some kids become teens, they fantasize of being the next Schumacher and putting the Philippines in the F1 map. Yeah, yeah, kiddo, dream on. Dreaming is for free, anyway. But acquiring your own team and getting sponsorships isn't.

But wait, one racing school is going against conventional wisdom. Making racing dreams come closer to reality is what the Tuason Racing School and its flagship event the Ford Lynx Cup is all about. If you're at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario during selected weekends, you'll get the picture.

If you've witnessed the recent Ford Lynx Cup advance series, then there's more action in sight—this time from the novices in their practice sessions at the BRC. It was just this Sunday when this writer caught a glimpse of three of the seven aspirants in their lap sessions

Here, they say you're never too young to start driving on the fast lane. As long as your feet can reach the pedals, your hands can hold on to the steering wheel, and your eyes can see beyond the dashboard and your mind can still think straight during hairpin turns, you're good to go. So, despite the ages of the competitors (the youngest being 13-year-old junior karter of the year Mark Bumgarner), the upcoming 9 races promise to be as exciting as the advanced ones.

And it's also never too late to aspire to become a racer, too. One example is broadcaster-lawyer (former press secretary and presidential spokesman) Mike Toledo who, at 42, is also a novice .

The races would be held thrice a month every weekend until October. The first Ford Lynx Cup novice races start from Aug. 21 to 22. The prize: Ford lynx cup trophies, bragging rights and the license to move on to the advance series.

The gentle daredevil

Soft-spoken Mark Bumgarner, a bubbly kid gifted with an indefatigable sense of wonder, loves animals (he has pet iguanas) and is a typical 8th grader at Brent School.

Though he may miss a few days in school when there are international and local races to compete in, he still sets his sights on becoming a veterinarian when he grows up (just like 16-year-old sister Tracy, an equestrienne, who dreams of becoming a vet herself). The moment he sits behind the wheel, though, the animal in him comes out, and that's when Mark the gentle becomes Mark the daredevil, and he becomes the younger, male version of karting champ and big sister Michelle. At an age when a typical child is just learning how to ride his first bike, Mark has been attacking twists and turns like a pro at triple-digit speeds.

JP and Mike Tuason have been taking turns training Mark. Despite his skills, he is the first to admit that he still has to get used to the stick shift, especially in proper downshifting.

Mark, like Michelle, will be defending his title this season [Junior Karter of the Year and Karter of the Year, respectively].

Before taking on full-size cars, Mark had been go-karting for almost six years and had joined international races in Malaysia and India. He will soon compete in a go-kart race in Macao. He has competed with 11 other karters on the Junior Rotax (12 to 18 years old).

Mark started gravitating toward motor races when he was six. At that time, Mark was karting against 10-year-olds. His American father Lee has been racing cars in Subic and is also a competitor in the advanced series. When Lee was young, his dad used to bring him to the Nascar races.

When his training is over, Mark wants to take a shot at Formula BMW, and eventually land a spot in F1. There, he wants to join Renault and "kick Michael Schumacher's butt." In retrospect, Mark said Schuey would be too old to race against him by then, so a Schumacher son would do.

'Sneaky' driver

Quiet, unassuming Jeff Roxas Chua, 16, third year high student of Xavier School in San Juan, always seems to be in deep thought. In truth, he is the adventurous type, and he likes his adventures on wheels. At the time when kids looked up to their action figures as heroes, Jeff was already grabbing toy cars.

He loved cars so much that when he was 11 years old, he would take the family's delivery truck for a spin. And when he became bored of his toy cars, he sneaked his father's sedan out of the garage and drove around the village, with the guards in hot pursuit.

The addiction to cars certainly didn't run in the family (Dad loved golf), and so when Jeff made it known in the family that he was into racing, safety became an issue.

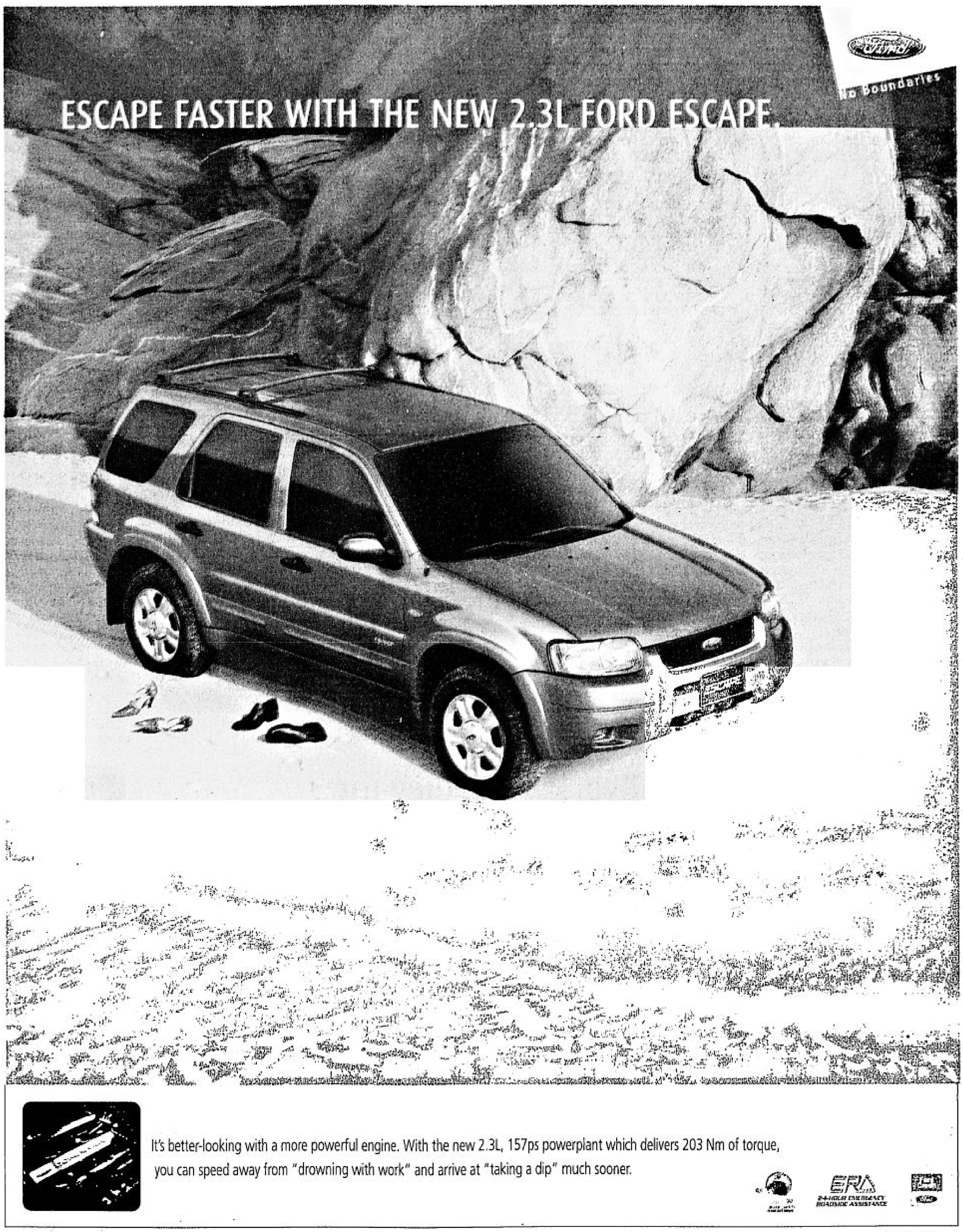
Jeff said that joining the Tuason Racing School offered him the opportunity of realizing his potential and indulging in his interest, while at the same time offering his parents the sense of safety and security of an organized and professional racing organization such as TRS.

Still, he has his misgivings about letting his parents watch his races on Aug. 21. If they do decide to watch me race, he said, they better be emotionally prepared.

Does he harbor his own "F" dream? Crypti-

DREAMING/ C2

THE GENTLE daredevil



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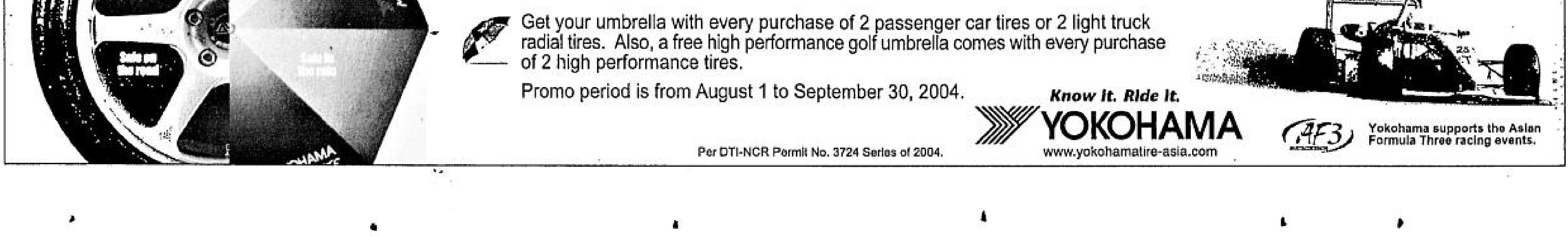

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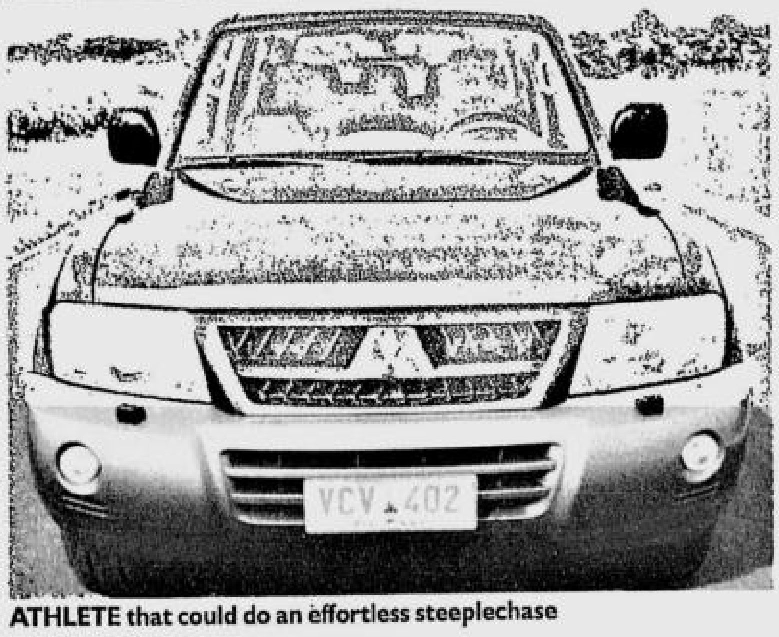
THE ATHLETE AND THE POLITICIAN

Age-old rivals part ways


ATHLETE that could do an effortless steeplechase

ENHANCED version of a barging rhino

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

RIVALRY has always spiced up everything. It certainly makes for an exciting existence. Rivalry brings out the best, and the worst, in you. And it keeps us alive. The animal kingdom best demonstrates the need for rivalries, when you see males fighting it out for food, territory, females, and just about anything that can accommodate only one living thing.

The competitive motoring industry parallels the realities of the animal world, as it is also a breeding ground for rival machines and rival motorists. Here, the top dog (and sometimes the underdog) eats dog, and the weak dog eats dust.

A lot of rivalries

There are a lot of rivalries in the motoring industry. Today, we focus on just two SUV brands: the Mitsubishi Pajero and the Nissan Patrol.

Even before American SUVs barged their way into Philippine soil, the Pajero and the Patrol were already lording over the local SUV market. They boasted of the same capabilities. They outdid each other in the looks department. They wooed the same market. The two raced bumper-to-bumper in virtually every department for over a decade.

Evolution, however, got in the way. Mitsubishi then morphed its Pajero into more of a nimble athlete than a brute. It now seemed to perform an effortless steeplechase all day long. The Patrol, however, stayed its course and even enhanced its image of a barging rhino.

Image

We're talking of image and not engine. The most common Patrol variants here are the 3-liter diesel 4x4s, while the new 4x4 Pajero has the 3.8-liter gasoline engine, both of which we were able to test drive recently. Unfortunately, the two are not of the same class in terms of engine comparisons. (Pajero also offers a 3.2-liter diesel engine and another yet available Patrol variant boasts of a six-cylinder in-line 4.5-L gasoline engine, and another one is a 3-liter 4x2.)

The imposing Nissan Patrol pearl black diesel with a 2953-cc engine displacement, automatic transmission with a separate transfer case for 4x4, stays where it's good at: intimidation. Couple the wide-bodied Patrol with three or four PNP escorts and some backup AUVs trailing it, and you have the often stubborn motorbikes, pedicabs, trikes and taxi cabs fearfully giving way. In the past election campaign, we dubbed the 4x2 version of the Patrol the "toy for the House boy." Now that the politico inside has won, a seat nearer Malacañang deserves a Patrol with more drive, hence the upgrade to the Patrol 4x4.

Though the Patrol and the Pajero have the same height, at 1855mm, the Patrol has the length and width and wheelbase that swallow up its rival Pajero: 5010mm, 1930mm and 2970mm versus 4830mm, 1895mm and 2780mm.

The Patrol's shiny silver step board is a thoughtful addition to help our less nimble passenger to climb up and down the high-floored SUV. As expected, the Patrol has a commanding view of the road ahead, and its dauntless radiator grille, beefy front bumper and glaring fog lamps, shiny rear bumper and mudguards add to the feeling of regale and power.

The ride in the Patrol is firm, especially up front. The Patrol's 3-link coil type in the front and the 5-link coil type in the rear are designed to absorb shocks and bumps on the road. But the ride, based on our experience, is a bit "dribbly." There's a hint of an understeer when turning, but features a more responsive engine, more agile handling and light-footedness compared to the Patrol 4x2 we tested last November.

Feeling the 'pull'

Even with a bulky body, we could feel the "pull" during highway runs, which made us appreciate turbo. For a diesel engine, the Patrol 4x4 exhibits cat-like reflexes, and it probably owes that to its ZD30DDTi engine that generates max power of 155 hp over 3,600 rpm, a max torque of 354 Nm (newton meters) over 2,000 rpm.

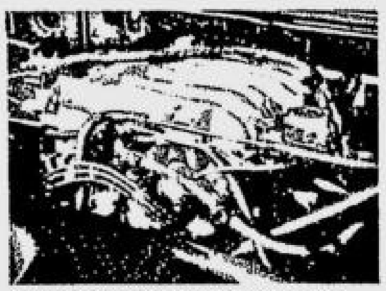
The signal indicator on the side view mirrors helps the Patrol driver as well as other motorists get a bearing on the size of the vehicle. It's also a safety feature to break the monotony of the Patrol's black body.

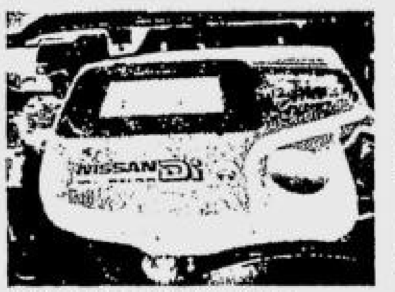
The gauges are simple, easy on the eyes and clear. The gray-light gray upholstery on the doors (with a crumpled design) and the steering wheel's gray leather add stateliness to the interior. The interior is generous on the assist grip—10 in all, two on each side except for the rearmost part. There's no vanity mirror for the driver, though. (The driver, we guess, should never look better than his stately passenger.)

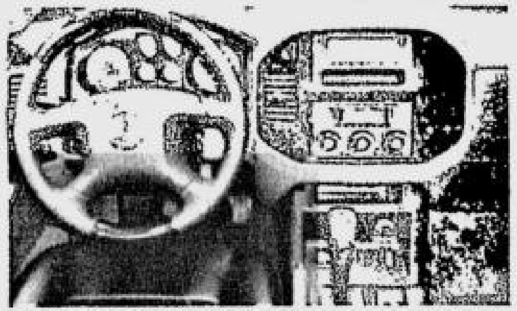
The third row seats, which could be folded, face each other instead forward facing. Even with just two passengers, the legroom is not enough to make them feel comfortable on long drives. The seat's height is also not that comfortable for long drives.

The Patrol's Clarion ADX6655Z CD player and cassette, as is characteristic of many touch control audio systems, is not that driver-friendly. Only the volume is of the knob-type. The CD player was also acting funny and it wouldn't even play my original CDs [I looked at the odometer, which showed this Patrol was over 21,000 km old. Well, this CD player has seen better days, and skipped on some bad ones, too]. The audio system, though, made up for the kinks and we were content with listening to our favorite FM station.

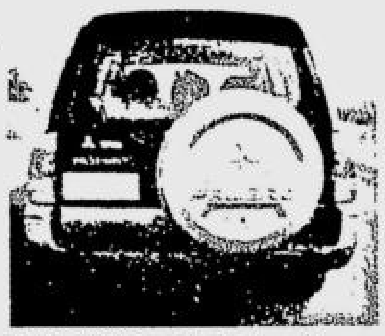
The air-con controls are driver friendly, and there are separate air-con knob controls at the back. The sound insulation was exceptional.


3.8-LITER 24-valve gas engine


PATROL'S 2953-cc engine


THE INSTRUMENTATION gauges tells you at one glance what you need to know

SIMPLE, easy on the eyes and clear


A SPORTS car that's streaking by even when standing still

MENACING Patrol is the toy for the "House boy"

Athlete

What the Pajero lacks in robustness, though, it makes up for in its ride. The new Pajero has an all-wheel independent suspension and this will always smooth out the roads for you.

This kind of suspension gives you the complete confidence in handling. The tires, you can be sure, will not be misguided. Unlike many SUVs with live rear axles that tend to twist the suspension or the leaf spring, thereby resulting in tire differentials that stir by themselves, the Pajero's all-wheel independent suspension makes the vehicle simply go where you point the steering wheel.

The Pajero has become an athlete on high-tech legs and shoes. The speed bumps are no objects for this SUV. We also get the impression that the materials used to build the new Pajero are lightweight.

The rumble of the 3.8-L 24-Valve SOHC ECI multigas engine sounds throaty, and the feel of the gas is nothing short of fantastic. And it showers the driver with exciting drive: the 5-speed Invecs-II sportronic (semimanual) super select 4WD. And because of a separate transfer case for the 4WD, you could shift on-the-fly. A push of the button opens up the four drive modes: SS4-II 2H, 4H, 4HLc, 4LLc.

The exterior lines of the new Pajero give the impression of a sports car that's streaking by even when standing still. The look of the front is menacing and sporty at the same time. The same goes for the back, complemented by the third brake lamp and the mounted tire. The side view, however, lessens in intensity somewhat.

Sporty aura

But right away, when you climb up the new Pajero, you feel this SUV's sporty aura. The gun-metal finish is appropriate here. The dashboard, with the bulge in the middle, adds to that sporty look. The controls for everything are uncomplicated, and will do the job as well as any push button control. The air-con is simply indicated as high, medium or low, just like operating your Mama's stove. The Pioneer audio system is easy to operate, but it took out the cassette deck, which may be too bad for some people who still have an affinity for tapes.

The light intensity of the weather and clock indicators can be controlled. The tire pressure monitor just above the gearshift is useful and can be observed scanning each tire's pressure (even the spare one). If a tire happens to be under or overinflated, the indicator will let you know. The Pajero also offers leather seats with an eight-way power driver seat, electronically adjustable and folding door mirror, a vanity mirror for the driver, and a fully automatic rear air-con control.

Too bad, though, the new Pajero doesn't have a sunroof, otherwise, the experience would have been perfect.

The seat at the rearmost of the Pajero (third row seat) can be easily folded and hidden in the rear underfloor compartment, and the seat is even detachable. For a change, this seat faces forward, and is more comfortable for passengers in long runs.

Verdict: Now that we know the different paths our two former rivals have taken, choosing the right SUV for you and your line of work has become less complicated, we hope. Should you decide on price, the 4x4 Patrol goes with a price range of P2.020 to P2.4 million while the new Pajero 3.8-liter has a price tag of P2.350 million. Now we just don't know what personalities like Pia Cayetano (hybrid athlete-politician) and Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora might choose.

Everest: Everlasting elegance

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

WHERE in the world can you find an SUV 4x4 that has dual front airbags and safety belts on all seven seats?

Only in the Philippines.

The vehicle's name?

Ford Everest. I'm not surprised. Being Volvo's chief benefactor now, Ford has tripled, if not quadrupled, efforts at safety features among its superb line of vehicles—the Ford Everest included. It is no secret in the motoring business that the world's safest ride is still Volvo.

But this Ford Everest, why this "expressway monster" races like no other when in full throttle, as its 2.5 liter turbo diesel engine with intercooler delivers optimum power at 110 PS at 3,500 rpm.

When Sunny Medalla called up to say, "Hey, Mr. Al, it's been a while since we crossed paths. How about the Ford Everest for you this weekend?"

Cool, as in Everest's three-section, split aircon that made everyone stay perfectly cool during the weekend trip to the beach and up the mountains.

The vehicle's rear door is so convenient it can be opened smoothly to the side in one step without having to move the spare tire and without unlocking other doors. It is so spacious at the back it can even accommodate a mountain bike, a surf board and even two Labradors and two Dobermans on top of your luggage and Coleman cooler. Its electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD) balances its weight automatically that even on sharp curves, I feel total stability at 80 kph.

With a superb pulling power, its fuel efficiency is impeccably natural—the envy of its rivals. Its elegance is everlasting.

With Sunny Medalla, everything's sunny you can actually hand him a gold medal upon your return.

* * *

Reader Rob Dix of Pangasinan has stopped traversing the Canatan Bridge between Mangatarem and Urbiztondo (Pangasinan) for fear he might suffer an accident. If he goes to Urbiztondo, he will go to Aguilar and turn right from there on his way to Urbiztondo.

"It's really a hell of a mess traversing that bridge," he said. "It can kill you even."

I can only agree with him. I've seen that bridge, negotiated that bridge a million times. You need to negotiate that bridge as gingerly as Ginger Rogers or else...Why, have you forgotten? I come from Mangatarem. I was there again last weekend to breathe the cool, clean barrio breeze, to hear the murmur of the crystal-clear waters of the stream gliding by at your feet.

* * *

The Canatan Bridge, about five kilometers away from the big bridge of Agno River near Urbiztondo, has a big hole at the entrance. It's been there for, maybe, 10 years. Even more. Why it has not been repaired up to now, only GMA knows. At night, it is an instant risk as the bridge is unlighted. At daytime, there's not even a marker to warn oncoming vehicles about it.

The national government is being blamed for this and has been blamed since time immemorial. Our politicians have done nothing and I wonder why. If they had done something already, it's either that it's not enough or has fallen on deaf ears. My town mates have pestered me a thousand times to write about it. I did, for how many times, I have lost track.

I'm writing about it again in the hope that something good may come out of it, like, suddenly, Governor Agbayani or Representative Espino, or even Secretary Soriquez, will finally make moves to repair it?

As the saying goes, try and try until you succeed.

* * *

TEAMWORK. Moments after finishing second in the French Grand Prix, Mild Seven Renault driver Fernando Alonso said: "We did the maximum that we could do today with the car. We pushed hard from beginning to end." Alonso and teammate Jarno Trulli always recognize the value of teamwork. For about six times on every given race, 23 Mild Seven Renault mechanics rise as one in close formation, a highly trained body changing four tires and pumping in liters upon liters of fuel into the Mild Seven Renault R24 car in a precise ballet that has become second nature. In modern F1, the number of pit stops, the point at which drivers decide to refuel, and the time spent in the pits, are worth their weight in gold. Refueling can often be the opportunity to leapfrog ahead of a competitor, without needing to try a risky maneuver on the track. "You only get points on Sunday afternoon, when you see the checkered flag. We only achieve our objectives, thanks to the hard work of each and every individual. The driver is only the last link in a long chain," said Trulli who finished fourth in the French GP. The credit given to the pit crew is well deserved. More than 20 mechanics work within a mere 20 square meters handling pressurized fuel and red-hot car parts with an inordinate carbon dust lingering in the air as cars—both their own and their competitors'—zings by at 80 to 100 kilometers per hour. These working conditions are not exactly ideal!

* * *

REVO PHOTO. Toyota Motor Philippines has launched the Revo: Reflections, a Revo photo contest open to all professional and amateur photographers. Entries should be about the Revo's past, present and future and its role in the Filipino lifestyle through a snapped shot. The grand winner will pocket P100,000. The contest period is from July 19 to Aug. 31, 2004. Call Ariel SPO2 De Jesus at 09189634304 or Elijah Sue Marcial at 09178489611 for more details.

* * *

MAZDA MAZE. I am almost sure there would be a maze of car enthusiasts who'd mill around the new Mazda3 when it was unveiled on Aug. 11 (Wednesday) at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Nikko Hotel. Although a four-door sedan, the Mazda3 has been ballyhooed as a "sports compact that will redefine the thrill of driving." I didn't make it there due to a previous commitment. Congratulations, anyway.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Yes, buckle up. It's the law.

THE BUDDING car enthusiast

THE SNEAKY driver

Dreaming of the 'F word'

From page C1

cally, he said he would just take things one step at a time. "If there's potential, there's always something good that's going to happen," he quipped.

Right now, he evaluates his own driving skills, and assesses that he has a lot of catching up to do.

Said Jeff: "One thing I learned at the racing class is to respect other drivers. And on the road, discipline and knowing other drivers around you is important."

Jeff plans to take up mechanical engineering in college or any course related to designing cars.

His dream is to join the BMW-Williams F1 team. The F1 racer to beat, of course, is Michael Schumacher.

"From go-karting at 4 to becoming an F1 legend, Schumacher has gone a long way," Jeff mused. And it's probably all that he's thinking about all day.

Mercedes SLK owner at 20

Erika Morales, 20, is one of two female aspirants for the Ford Lynx Cup.

A budding car enthusiast, Erika now boasts of one "trophy" car in her showroom—a blue Mercedes SLK, her dream car, which she got from her parents after four years of waiting.

Her brother Renan, 24, likewise a car buff, owns a Ferrari 360 Modena. Erika became interested in racing when Renan started racing production cars.

Every weekend Erika's family would watch racing until the whole family coaxed her to attend the Tuason Racing School.

Erika is not contented in just driving cars. She also wants to know what car mechanics talk about. She said she might find herself studying technical details of cars someday. For now, she said she's following the footsteps of her business-minded mom. Erika is taking up Business Management in college.

For now, Erika's in the races to "unwind." That's how the lass relaxes—in a blur of speed.

(To be continued)

The elephant behind the driver

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DRIVER, there is an elephant behind you when a child is not wearing a seat belt in the back seat of your car. This is because a child weighing 60 lb, traveling in a car at 30 miles per hour (48 km/h), will weigh as much as a young elephant (about 2,700 lb) in a frontal collision. And if this massive weight hits you in the back, driver, you're dead within 60 seconds as all your ribs are likely to break and then puncture your lungs. Or the child may be hurled straight through the car's windshield and hit the same object that the car collided with.

This nightmarish scenario was described by John-Fredrik Gronvall, senior research engineer of Volvo Cars Safety Center, at a half-day seminar on child safety in cars held last week by Viking Cars Inc., the distributor of Volvo in the Philippines. Gronval was emphasizing the importance of seat belt use not only for the driver and front seat passenger, but also for the rear seat occupants of a car.

Crash weight

Is this scenario unrealistic? Christer Gustafsson, Volvo's senior safety engineer, says in a press handout that the numbers seem unreal unless you know the law in physics that Force = Mass x Acceleration. In the rapid deceleration that occurs at the moment of impact, Gustaffson explains, a child's "crash weight" increases dramatically and the child will be hurled forward with a force that multiplies the impact approximately 45 times above normal, depending on the object collided with. "At 42 miles per hour, those numbers rise to 75 to 150 times normal. So, in effect, the crash weight of a 60-pound child at 42 miles per hour can range from 4,500 to 9,000 pounds. That's an astounding 2 - 4 tons, or about the weight of an elephant."

These figures were validated by 34 years of traffic accident research in Sweden and the recreation of various accident situations at the Volvo Cars Safety Center. The world's most advanced safety center was opened in 2001 and crashes 200 cars every year at speeds of up to 120 km/h for each of the two colliding cars in a simulated accident.

Can you imagine what would happen in a crash if the unbuckled back seat passengers were not children but adults? How I wish that government officials were present at Volvo's seminar so that they would be motivated to amend the Seat Belt Law to include back seat passengers and increase the fine for violation thereof. The use of seat belts front and rear was required by law in Sweden, Volvo's home country, 20 years ago in the 1980s. In Hong Kong, it became law several years ago so that when you get into the back seat of a taxicab, the driver may remind you to buckle up.

Huge forces

As pointed out by the Volvo car safety experts, seat belts help to retain occupants within the cabin's safety structure after the initial impact has occurred. Even if a secondary impact and/or rollover takes place, the seat belts help keep the occupants strapped safely inside the vehicle until the energy of the accident has dissipated. "During a rollover, the effect is very much like clothes in a washing machine during the spin cycle," Gronvall said. "There are huge forces that can easily eject occupants who are not using a seat belt."

Another analogy used by Volvo to illustrate the consequences of not buckling up uses a chair: "If you were to climb onto an ordinary dining chair and let yourself fall flat on your face on the floor from that height, the effect would be the same as if you were in a car, not wearing a seat belt, and it crashed at 15 km/h. For the equivalent of 20 km/h you'd have to stack four chairs up before you fell. To approximate a crash at 30 km/h, you'd have to go eight chairs high. Eight chairs stacked one on top of another make quite a tower. And 30 km/h is not very fast at all. . . We generally drive faster than that, even 'just around town.'"

Effective use

Just as important as wearing seat belts is their proper use. To be most effective, the lap portion of the 3-point seat belt—which is standard in cars these days but was pioneered as standard equipment in all Volvo cars way back in 1959—should be worn low across the hips and pelvic bones while the upper portion of the belt should be worn on the chest. If the lap portion of the belt is worn too high, it compresses all of the soft organs in the abdominal cavity against the spine, Dr. Stewart Wang (associate chair of Surgery and director, Program for Injury Research and Education, University of Michigan), warns. "This can cause damage to the soft organs in the abdomen as well as to the spine since they are not nearly as able to withstand the large crash forces as the strong and rigid pelvis."

Yet when all is said and done in this age of crumple zones, front and side airbags, pretensioner seat belts, anti-whiplash system, inflatable curtains (safety improvements first introduced by Volvo), the most important safety feature of all is still the driver. It is the driver who decides to properly use the safety devices in cars, Gronvall avers, and the one who insists that all passengers wear their seat belts.

When your children, the most precious cargo of all, are in the back seat, help protect them by attaching their seat belts. "Having everyone belted is a great gift of life and love," he concludes. "No one wants an elephant in the back seat."

REAR seat passengers as well as driver and front seat passenger should use seat belts for the safety and protection of everyone concerned.

Volkswagen Touareg: SUV of the Year

RECENTLY introduced in the Philippines, the VW Touareg luxury off-road vehicle represents a vehicle concept, which blazes new trails at the high end of the SUV (sport utility vehicle) market.

It combines the features of a high-quality off-road vehicle with the comfort of a luxury saloon and the dynamics of a sports car in a new vehicle philosophy.

The Touareg is available with a 3.2-liter V6 gasoline engine which achieves 162 kW/220 bhp and develops up to 305 Nm torque; and the 4.2 liter V8 with a power of 228 kW/310 bhp.

This off-roader has already received numerous awards from automobile experts and continues to collect more and more international awards.

US awards

Motor Trend, the best-selling car magazine in the US, voted the Touareg Sport Utility Vehicle of the Year for 2004. This is one of the most significant honors of the American market. Assessment is based on three key categories: significance, superiority and value.

The magazine US Car and Driver also named the Touareg "Luxury SUV of the Year."

This popular off-road vehicle also won the "SUV of Texas" award from a Texan automotive expert jury in the autumn of last year.

Other awards

Overlander, the best-known Australian off-road magazine, presented the Touareg with the "2003 Overlander 4WD of the Year Award.

In the Off-Road category, the Touareg was chosen for the car of the year by a jury of 23 journalists from leading automotive and economic publications, newspapers and magazines, as well as TV and radio stations in Portugal.

The Volkswagen Touareg is readily available through its authorized distributor Autostadt Philippines Corp. Autostadt is located at 2304 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

Keeping countryside. . .

From page C4

and antiwear agents.

"Compared to gasoline, lubricants are extremely diverse. There exist different types of oil: for engines, for gearboxes, for axles etc., and lubricants are not all the same since their functions vary according to the base oil used and the additives they incorporate, which give them specific characteristics and applications (gearbox, engine etc.)," explained Alarcon.

In the case of Total Philippines for example, it sells at least 200 different types of lubricant line products nationwide. It has a wide range of motor oils [which include the Quartz series for gasoline engines, Rubia series for diesel engines], brake fluid, transmission oils, coolants and grease.

Personalized approach

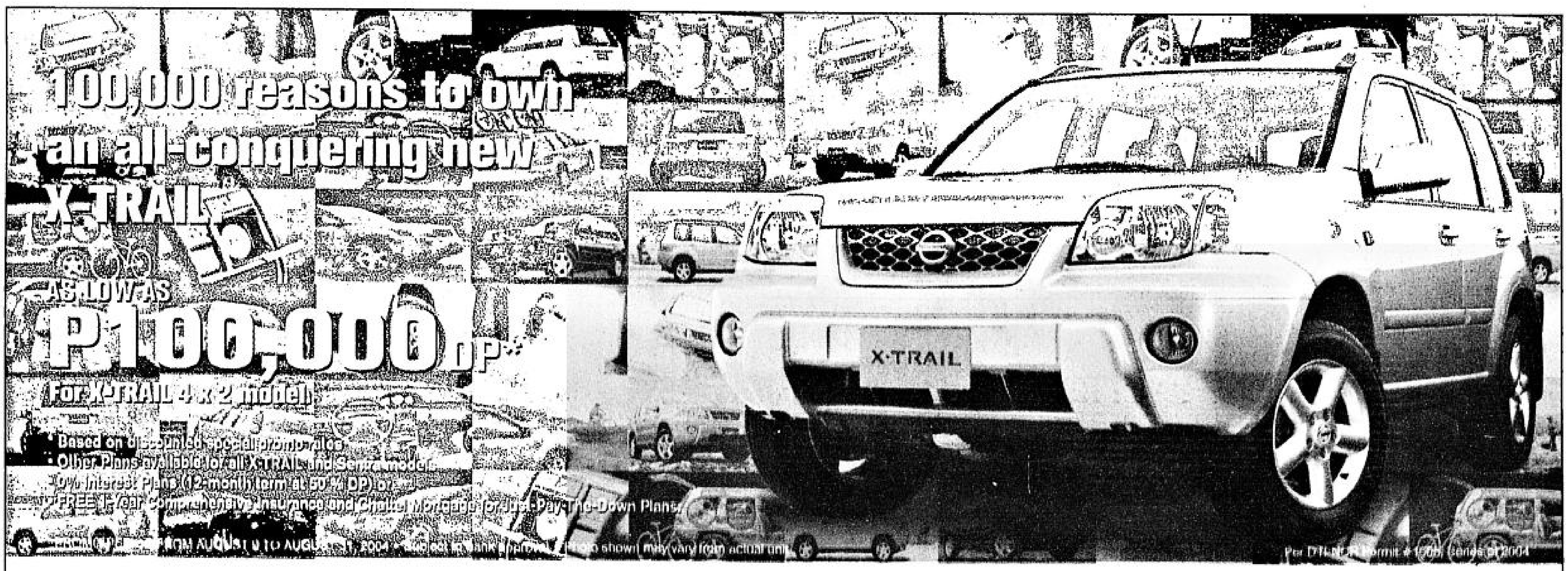
Since the market of Ocampo's Guagua Lubes and Fuel are in Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, Bulacan and parts of Nueva Ecija, Alarcon opted for a more personalized approach in educating their distributors as well as advertising Total products.

"In the provinces, you just don't rely on television or radio advertisement, you go out and meet people and tell them personally. That's how they will trust your company and the products you sold," he explained.

Right now, Ocampo's Guagua Lubes and Fuel's client base is comprised of industrial or fleet accounts like buses, haulers, construction companies (60 percent share) and auto shops like high street lubricants, otherwise known as motor oils (40 percent share).

The company regularly invites their subsidiaries and retail outlets and conducts product seminars and get-together.

Its persistence was rewarded last year: the company attained the highest sales volume among Total Philippines distributors nationwide, which Alarcon hopes to achieve again this year.



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Per DTI NCR Permit # 1267 Series of 2004

Keeping countryside machinery up and running

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

FOR MANY of us, lubricants are just mere products put on to the engine from time to time—the less frequently, the better. They obviously do not enjoy the status usually afforded to their similarly petroleum-based cousins like the gasoline, diesel and even kerosine.

In fact, lubricants improve engine performance and cut down fuel consumption as they reduce friction and make engines more efficient and longer lasting as they protect engine parts against wear and corrosion. They also keep engine parts clean as they help eliminate impurities, thanks to oil filters and oil changes. They also contribute to an optimum engine compression ratio for added engine power as they help seal engine housings and stop engine parts from deforming as it absorbs heat.

Lubricant is a key component that should be considered if one is to save on fuel or wants to protect the environment (as lubricants help reduce emissions of pollutants).

Importance of lubricants

"Few people may realize this but here in the countryside, its importance (gearbox lubricants, grease and mixed motor oil for gasoline or diesel) is much more pronounced," revealed Jaime Alarcon of Ocampo's Guagua Lubes and Fuel, a Total Philippines distributor of fuel and lubes based in Pampanga.

He recalled that when Mount Pinatubo erupted in June 1991, the whole of Pampanga as well as its neighboring provinces suffered so much devastation.

"Everything was put aside as all efforts were concentrated at saving lives and building infrastructures to stop lahar from further devastating the land," he shared his reminiscences.

It was at this point that the people relied so much on heavy equipment: tractors, bulldozers, payloaders, excavators, tractor trailers and cranes. Inasmuch as they need fuels to run their engines, they must also protect them against corrosion and other elements that may bog them down and delay their operation.

Said Alarcon: "We have succeeded and today, the province is now getting back on its feet. In fact, the lahar that we used to loathe is now a source of considerable income—the white sands are in demand in Metro Manila construction sites.

Playing their part

Lubricants played their part in preventing engine parts from wearing out so quickly and protected them against constant attacks from damaging lahar, flood, sands and fine dusts (ashes).

A lubricant is an oil-based mixture containing several types of additives such as antioxidants, viscosity enhancers

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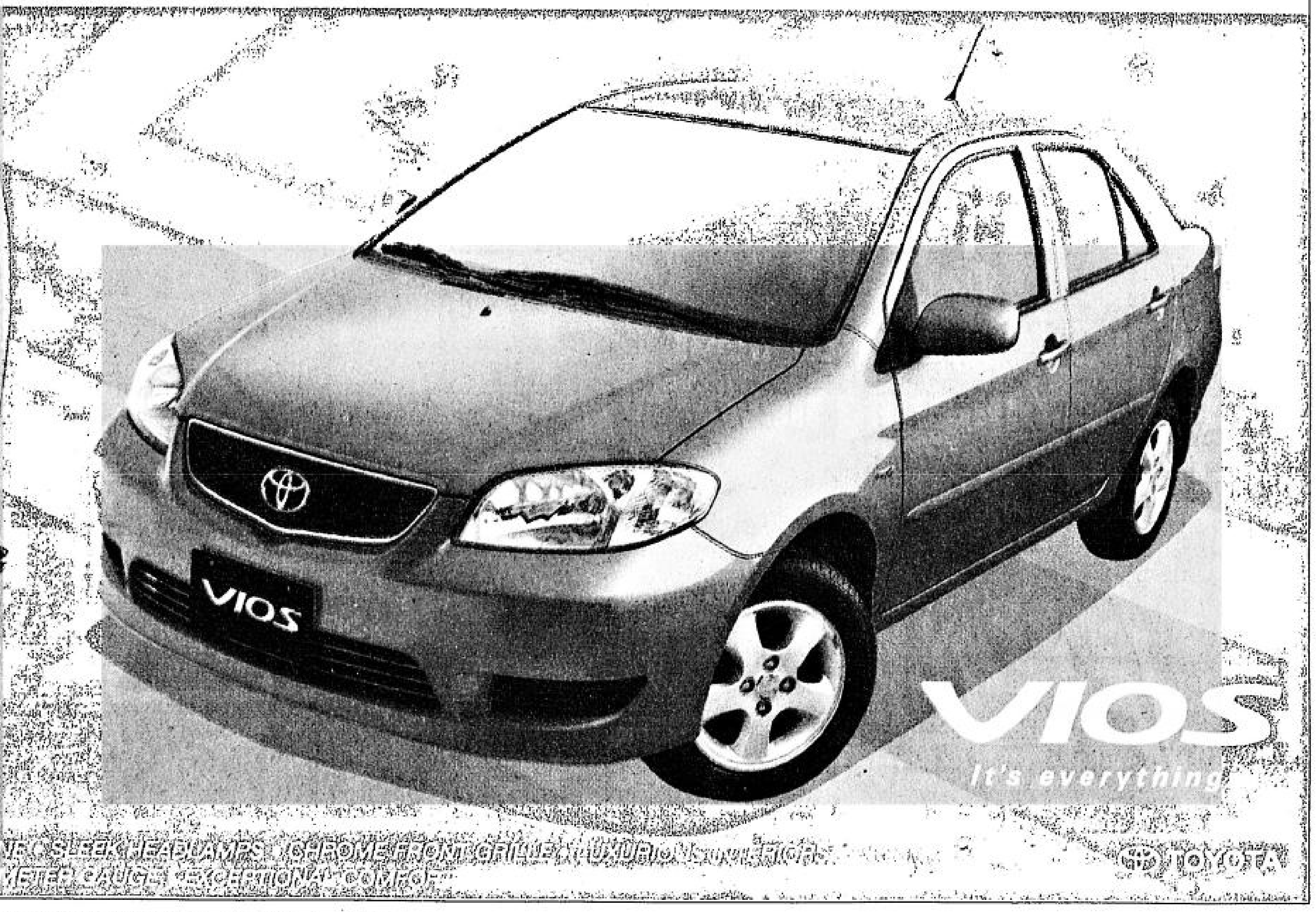
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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **HOME & FASHION** ● SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

Go fish

At the Fishing Place in Kawit, Cavite, guests can either catch their own dinner or just wait to be served fresh seafood

STORY ON PAGE D8

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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Globe AutoloadMAX brings better, brighter future to OFWs and their families

Millions of Filipinos choose to endure years and years of work, toiling in so-called 'greener pastures' far away, just so they can send monthly remittances to feed their families back home. Still, a vast majority of them return home from their long ordeal without sufficient savings to sustain their families here.

Globe Telecom, through its new Globe Kababayan service campaign, seeks to remedy the reliance of OFW families on remittances from their relatives abroad by giving them a new source of livelihood -- an opportunity to earn extra income here by selling AutoloadMAX prepaid load credits. AutoloadMAX is but one of Globe's innovations that allow Globe prepaid subscribers to reload credits conveniently, from an AutoloadMAX retailer SIM. Those who choose to be AutoloadMAX retailers can earn thousands and thousands of pesos in a month, which makes for a very lucrative income generating option for families left behind by OFWs.

Globe Kababayan
MOBILE SERVICES PARA SA OFW

Susan Sacro and Leonardo "Toto" Quilao, both of Makati, are but two of thousands whose lives have vastly improved since becoming AutoloadMAX retailers.

Housewife earns more than P20, 000 / month from selling Globe AutoloadMAX

Susan is not your typical OFW housewife. Not content with just waiting for the monthly remittance that her husband, a technician in Saudi Arabia, sends her, this mother of three took on a part time job as a gym instructor to help make ends meet. *"Ang hirap talagang pagkasyahin ang perang ipinadadala ng asawa ko. Minsan nade-delay pa. Kaya kung may dumating man, halos pambayad na lang iyon ng utang,"* she said.

Four months ago, one of her students in the gym introduced her to the income earning potential of being a Globe AutoloadMAX retailer. When she got her retailer SIM, she thought she would only earn but a few extra pesos to supplement her and her husband's income.

As soon as word got out in the gym that she was selling AutoloadMAX credits, her students who use Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile all flocked to her. In just a matter of hours, she quickly recouped her initial investment of P500 and in the following days, the money she made from selling AutoloaMAX credits exceeded all of her expectations.

In addition to her regular AutoloadMAX customers in the gym, she now also counts employees at the Makati Regional Trial Court, the classmates of her youngest kid and her neighbors as her clients. She is now earning at least an average of P700 net income daily, or roughly, P21, 000 every month!

"Ang dali-dali talagang kumita ng malaki sa pagiging AutoloadMAX retailer, wala ka nang pagod," Susan enthused. *"Dahil sa di na 'ko masyadong umaasa sa padala ng asawa ko, makakaipon na din siya ng pera para matupad ang pangarap niya na magkaroon ng isang electronics repair shop sa pag-uwi niya sa Pilipinas."*

Employee supplements monthly income with Globe AutoloadMAX retailer earnings

Toto, a company representative for an accounting firm in Makati is another AutoloadMAX success story. Like Susan, it was the chance to earn extra income which enticed Toto to become a Globe AutoloadMAX retailer five months ago.

"*Bago ako naging retailer*, I was seriously considering joining my mother and two brothers in Italy, *dahil sa hindi talaga sapat ang kita ko dito para mabigyan ng magandang buhay ang pamilya ko. Buti na lang ako'y kinausap ng isang kong kumpare tungkol sa* Globe AutoloadMAX. With the money that I make as a Globe AutoloadMAX retailer combined with my monthly salary, *guminhawa kahit paano ang buhay namin,"* said Toto.

Susan Sacro and Toto Quilao are just two examples of OFW families whose lives have changed after they became Globe AutoloadMAX retailers. With their extra income from Globe AutoloadMAX, they do not have to depend on their monthly remittances so much. This even allows them to save enough money for them and their children's future.

Globe continues to make great things possible for millions of OFW's and their families who, with Globe AutoloadMAX, should soon be reunited to face a better, brighter future together.

For more information on Globe AutoLoadMAX, ask any Globe representative at any Globe Business Center or call 1-800-8-7398168 for Globe Subscribers or 1-800-10-7398168 for PLDT Subscribers.

Toto Quilao sells Globe AutoloadMAx to his officemates and friends.

AUTOLOAD MAX
RELOAD HERE

Susan Sacro earns from brisk sales of Globe AutoloadMAX

RELOAD HERE
AUTOLOAD

The dela Cruz family receives an AutoloadMAX retailer SIM and starter kit from Globe Kababayan's Alan Supnet and Cleo Santos.

Staying Close to Home

For an increasing number of Filipino households, the prospect of finding work and earning better wages abroad has prompted more than one family member to become an OFW. But, while having multiple OFWs in a household may increase the family income, it does not always guarantee financial security. Nor does it break the cycle of temporary migration that sends the country's able and willing to showcase their skills elsewhere. For that to materialize, the family must be able to find income from local sources.

As a token of its commitment to uplifting the lives of OFWs and their families, *Globe Kababayan*, the new service campaign of Globe Telecom for OFWs and their families, recently presented the family of Angelo dela Cruz with an AutoloadMax retailer SIM, which will allow them to earn extra income by selling load credits to neighbors and friends who are on Globe Prepaid or Touch Mobile. To get them started, Globe Kababayan also gave them a brand new phone and P20,000 worth of AutoloadMAX load. The family has assigned Jacky, one of Angelo's younger daughters, as their designated AutoloadMax retailer. Less than ten minutes after receiving the starter kit and learning the mechanics of electronic loading, she had already sold P150 worth of load to neighbors and friends.

Jacky dela Cruz makes her first AutoloadMAX sale.

The dela Cruz family is but one example of the numerous OFW households who have benefited from Globe Kababayan's services. For these families, having an AutoloadMax retailer SIM means more than just added income. It gives them the possibility of ensuring that, when the time comes for the next generation to start looking for work, they do not have to stray too far from home.

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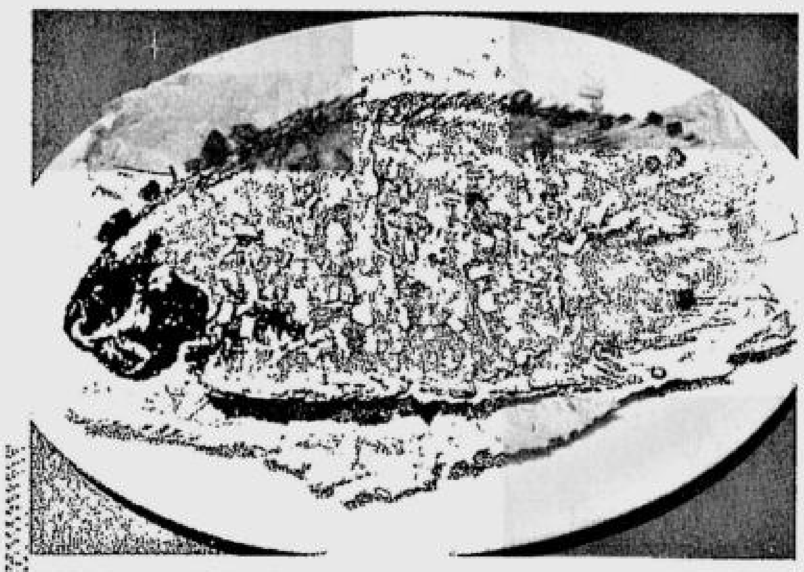


FRIED Dapa with Soy Sauce

KANGKONG Lechon, crispy deep-fried pork sautéed with swamp cabbage

SMART Chicken, Hong Kong-style chicken pieces with Smart savory sauce

66 years of cooking the smart way

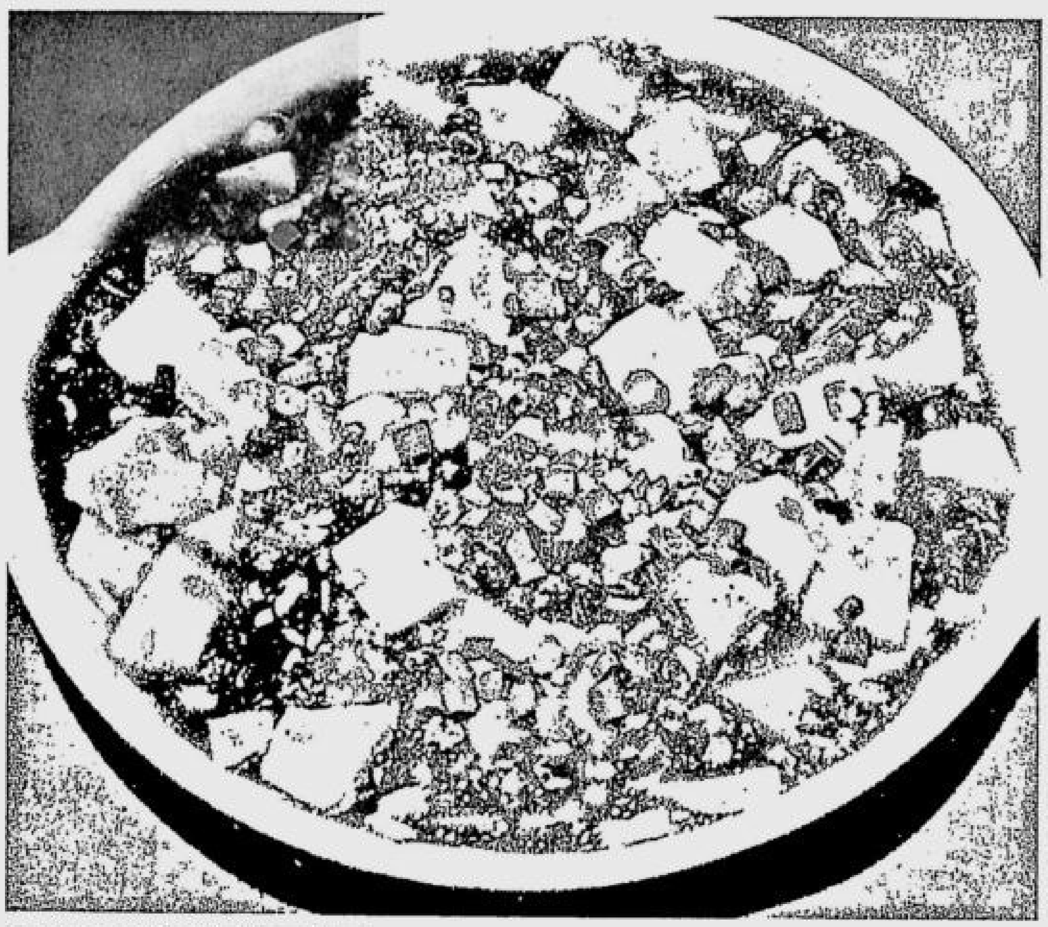
Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

RESTAURANTS come and go. For a restaurant to last two years is already an accomplishment. But to be in the business not just for two or 10 years, but for more than 50 years, is no mean feat indeed.

Smart Panciteria appears to have lived up to its name, doing smart business that it has survived for 66 years.

Founded in 1938 by the late Leoy Sang on Tomas Pinpin in Binondo, it became an institution and a landmark in Chinatown, known for its traditional Chinese dishes. It is said Leoy was one of the first people to introduce the legendary Soup No. 5, supposedly the solution to the Pinoy male's virility problems in pre-Viagra days. The soup is made of bull testicles.

NANCY Leoy, Smart Panciteria third-generation owner



HOT Beancurd with Minced Pork

CUAPAO, Smart's all-time favorite

In its heyday, Smart Panciteria was reputedly the favorite watering hole of politicians. Philippine presidents—from Jose Laurel to Diosdado Macapagal—had been customers. In fact, even Joseph Estrada, in his short presidency, managed to visit and enjoy some of the restaurant's specialties that included Smart Chicken-Hong Kong Style, Fried Frogs' Legs, Hototay Soup, Kangkong Lechon, Lettuce with Minced Meat, Ham Duck Rice (succulent pieces of duck leg ham and Chinese sausage over a generous serving of rice) and Eight Treasure Soup (clear soup with meat, scallops, shrimps and vegetables).

But ordinary people also patronized the restaurant because, as dictated by Smart's founder, reasonable prices were maintained. Despite the low prices, service was fast and the quality of the food was consistent.

New generations

When the patriarch died in 1993 at the age of 90, his son, Eddie, took over the management of the restaurant. The younger Leoy carried on his father's legacy, making sure the quality of their food was kept the way Smart's loyal clients liked it.

After Eddie himself passed away last year, Nancy, one of his eight children, was given the responsibility of keeping the restaurant going.

"The (work) is quite tough," admits Nancy. "But growing up with my grandfather and being exposed to the restaurant's daily operations, I know I'm up to the challenge."

The third generation Leoy remembered how, as a toddler, the restaurant's cooks would put her inside an empty water pail on a table so she could watch them cook without being a nuisance. In high school, she worked as a cashier at Smart.

"My grandfather really loved the restaurant business. He knew the ropes, from marketing to actual food presentation. He enjoyed doing his version of old dishes and creating new ones," says Nancy.

Last year, she decided to transfer Smart Panciteria from Binondo to Libis, Quezon City, which is becoming an enclave of good restaurants.

Keeping tradition alive

The two-story building on E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis (tel. nos. 3955147 and 3955170) has a more modern façade. Verandas allow diners to enjoy *al fresco* dining.

Leoy Sang was credited with the introduction of the legendary Soup No. 5, supposedly the solution to the Pinoy males' virility problems in pre-Viagra days

Inside, the décor is vintage Smart—red, gold and black. The place is fully air-conditioned, unlike the old Binondo restaurant that only had large ceiling fans for ventilation.

The new Smart also departs from tradition with its Hong Kong chefs, kitchen staff and servers wearing neat uniforms, so far removed from traditional *panciterias* of greasy bowls and sweaty cooks in white, collarless T-shirts.

Nancy says her toughest challenge was to remain true to the taste of the signature dishes long-time customers have gotten used to.

"I always try to keep the food as it used to be," says the 38-year-old proprietor. "I know the taste by heart, and I know that the dishes we serve today taste the same as the dishes served during my grandfather's time."

She also knows that keeping her grandfather's standards of quality is a tough job, so she spends most of her time in the kitchen to make sure that the food is prepared and cooked right.

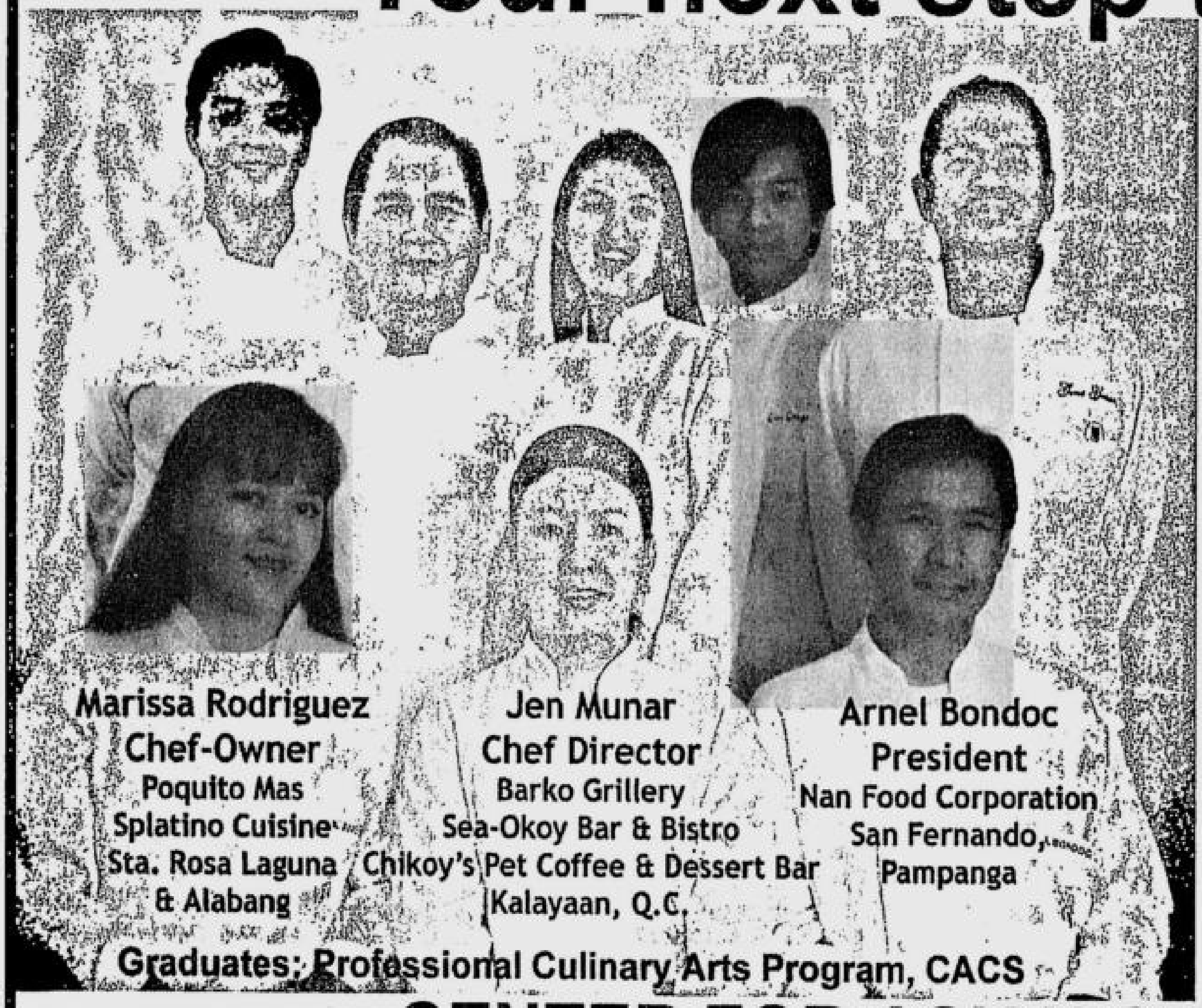
Smart's staff have also remained loyal. Nancy proudly says the children and grandchildren of some of the original employees who worked for her grandfather have joined the new restaurant.

She says this helps preserve the family's old recipes, since old hands in the kitchen have remained to do the cooking. Nancy adds she will continue serving the dishes that made Smart in Binondo a favorite family destination all those years.

So loyal clients who plan to follow Smart to Libis can expect to get Nido Soup with Quail Eggs, Hot Beancurd with Minced Pork, Pinsec Frito, Sweet Sour Pork, Fried *Dapa* with Soy Sauce, Cuapao, as well as new additions to the now quite extensive menu.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Your next step to success.



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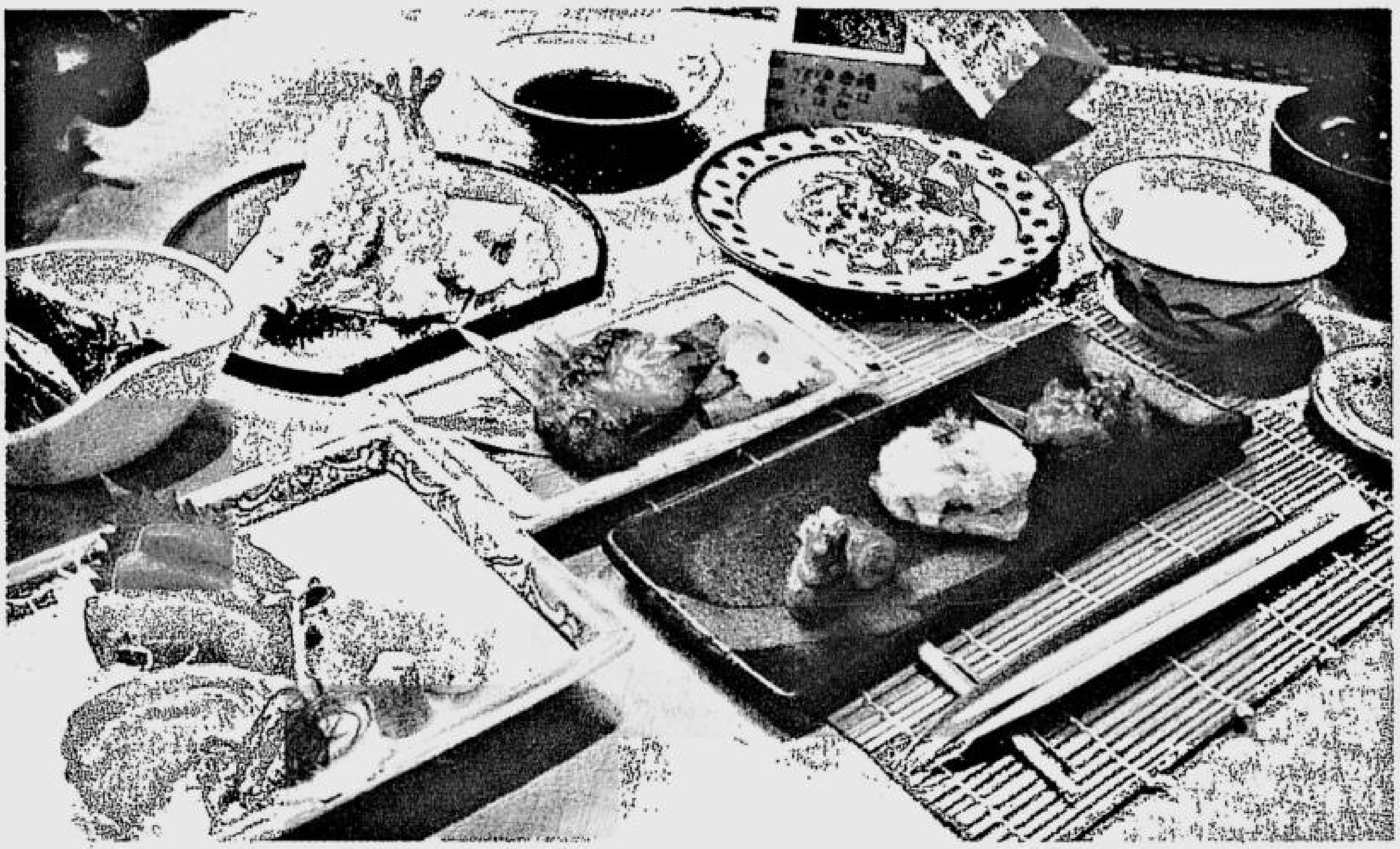

Kaiseki is a multi-course meal that can best be described as Japanese-style *lauriat*, artistically presented in little portions, following a sequence of cooking methods—-fried, stewed, grilled, deep-fried, hot pot, etc.

Japanese 'lauriat' to celebrate a milestone

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

FEW things need to be celebrated as much as the passing of each year, especially after 50. My sister Babot turned, should I say it? Guess not. She's family, thus a force to reckon with.

I owe a lot of food discoveries to her. No one I know is as insatiable as she is in searching for new things to eat, where or who to order it from. We celebrated her birthday in Sugi, in full Kaiseki pomp and pageantry. What an experience it was.

Kaiseki is a multi-course meal consisting of small dishes using and highlighting the freshest ingredients in season. It can probably be described as Japanese style *lauriat*, artistically presented in little portions, following a sequence of cooking methods (fried, stewed, grilled, deep-fried, hot pot, pickled...)

That evening we had Otoshi (three kinds of appetizers), three kinds of Sashimi Moriawase, Nimono (Cha Soba Noodles in Ebi Cream Sauce with Asparagus), Yakimono (gindara), Agemono (tempura), Gohan, Miso, Oshinko (pickled dish) and dessert. What a feast!

Here's to you, Manang Babot! May you continue to age like fine wine!

More wine tips

Speaking of fine wine, here's part two of KR's wine series:

Some practical tips

- Store wine in a cool, dark place. Ideal temperature is 55°F, +/-5 degrees.
- Use the right glass. The right shape will improve the taste of a cheap bottle, while the wrong glass does nothing for a good one. Remember that the opening of the glass should be smaller than the base. Glasses should be pear-shaped. Different types of wine require different glasses.
- Wash wine glasses well. Dry them upside down on a rack. They should not smell.
- When a bottle is not consumed, use wine vacuums, "vacu-vins," to remove excess air from the bottle.
- Red wines less than three years of age should be allowed to breathe for an hour and then served at warm room temperature. Room temperature in this case is anywhere between 52-66°F, depending upon the type of wine.
- Red wine stains disappear if you immediately pour white wine on them.
- Glasses should only be two-thirds full. Aroma is developed on the top level.
- Make sure the wine you're buying has not been standing upright for a long period of time.
- Don't leave wine in the ref longer than two days. You will cause irreversible damage to its flavor.

Did you know that you can request a restaurant to open a new bottle, even if you are buying by the glass, if the wine they gave you has turned flat?

My wine recommendations

Excellent and cheap

Nederburg Shiraz (South Africa)–alone or with red meat, excellent with spicy food, strong aged cheese

Nederburg Cabernet Sauvignon–alone or with red meat

Nederburg Late Harvest (South Africa)–sweet dessert wine, loved by non-wine aficionados. Excellent substitute for sauternes, fantastic with foie gras, spicy dishes, desserts, cheeses. Available in Santis Deli.

Next week... types of wine

Packed lunches

Our company always has activities and functions. Can you recommend someone who could do packed lunches for about a thousand people?

LILIAN UY

Sure do! He does packed lunches and is a contractor, too! He does 3,000 packed lunches a day and food orders for 10 to 5,000. By the way, did I say cheap? Joel and Baby Vilches, nice couple - 0917-5414880.

Resto designer

I'm semi-retired and would like to put up a small bistro. Would you know of a restaurant designer who could help me? I would like to explore the possibilities and costs.

ARMANDO JOSE

I am currently working on a project with MMAP-Mike Pizarro and Fourdy Mercado (tel. 9288986-87), who have been doing restaurants for years. One thing I could say about them is they pretty much make all your visions come true.

Maraming salamat po, Atty. Jose! Doing KR is a pleasure, especially when it is appreciated by people like you.

Gas pains

I love beans like *monggo* and chili. My problem is I develop gas. Is there a remedy?

ALLAN CO

Yes, there is a remedy. De-gas beans by adding fennel seeds to the water where you soak them. Another trick, according to people, is to eat the same amount of beans and rice. Let me know if it works. Until then, stay away from public places!

Barbecue in Cotabato

I just arrived from Saudi and would like to open a barbecue house in Cotabato. *Meron ho ba kayong madaling gawin na* honey barbecue spareribs recipe?

ART CASTILLO

Art, may your dream come true! Welcome home and good luck!

Marinade:

1 c soy sauce
1/3 c sugar
2 chilies (*siling labuyo*, sliced) or 2 tsp chili powder
¼ c honey
2 tbsp minced fresh ginger
2 tbsp minced fresh garlic
1/3 c sesame oil
1 k pork ribs

- Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
- Pour over the ribs, marinate in the refrigerator overnight.
- Grill

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

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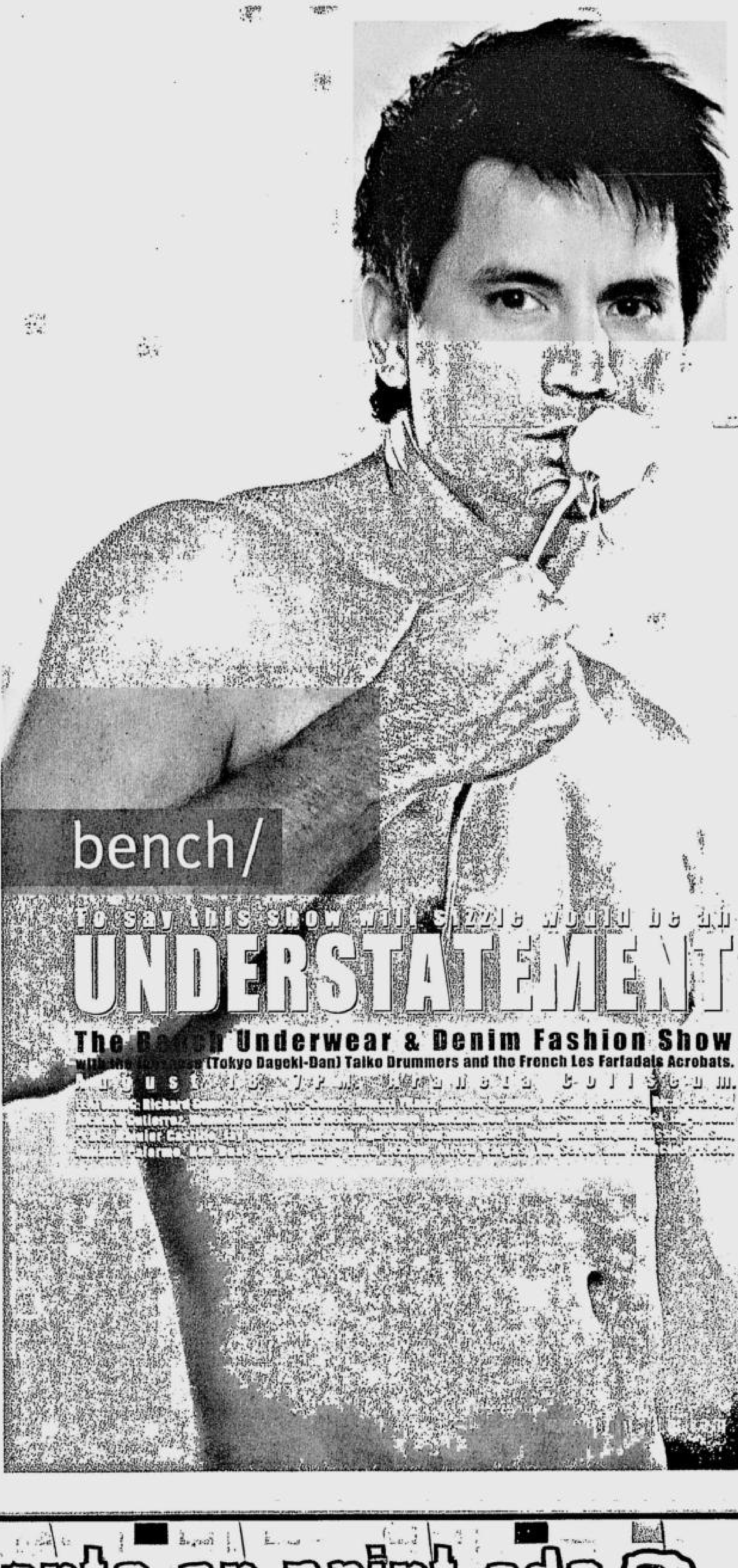
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SUCKLING pig, roast duck and ngo hiang

LAKSA, rice noodles dipped in gravy made from coconut milk, curry, dried shrimp and chili

Savoring Singapore

Heritage Hotel is currently holding a month-long food festival inspired by the melting-pot cuisine of the Lion City

By Alex Y. Vergara

SENIOR sous chef Jeffrey Leow and executive chef Alex Chew RUDY ESPERAS

SINGAPORE may be a melting pot of races and cultures, but as far as the Heritage Hotel Manila is concerned, there's no place for fusion cooking when it comes to Singaporean cuisine.

The Singaporean-owned and managed hotel is currently holding "A Taste of Singapore," a month-long food festival at the Restaurant Riviera..

On top of its regular fare, the Riviera has beefed up its buffet line with over a dozen Singaporean dishes, including desserts derived from such luscious ingredients as durian and coconut milk.

To keep the event from becoming predictable, chefs Alex Chew and Jeffrey Leow will be introducing and pairing new dishes in the coming days.

For P822 per person, diners can choose from (and try!) close to 80 dishes, including the restaurant's wide range of continental and *shabu shabu* options.

CHICKEN Curry

Featured dishes

Among the featured Singaporean dishes are barbecued crabs, *nasi lemak*, beef *rendang* (spicy beef in coconut sauce), *bak chou* (noodles flavored with minced meat and mushrooms) and *otah otah* (ground fish meat marinated with coconut milk, freshly ground chili, onions, lemon grass, ginger and turmeric wrapped in palm leaf).

Diners can also savor some of the hotel's best-selling Singaporean staples: *laksa* (rice noodles dipped in gravy made from a mixture of coconut milk, curry, herbs, spices, dried shrimp and chili), *mee rebus* (egg noodles in spicy and slightly sweet gravy, garnished with boiled eggs, green chilies and fried bean curd) and chicken curry.

Emphasis on Chinese-inspired dishes is strong, as majority of people in Singapore are ethnic Chinese. But to make the event a truly multiethnic feast, the chefs are also highlighting dishes from the country's two other main ethnic groups, Indians and Malays.

Mutual respect has become imperative if a diverse society such as Singapore's is to survive and thrive.

Distinct qualities

This unwritten rule extends to Singapore's various cuisine, as chefs of whatever ethnicity endeavor to preserve distinct qualities inherent in each dish.

"We have brought in 80 or so spices amounting to 300 kilos," says Chew, a Singaporean and the hotel's executive chef. "The curry paste for our Indian dishes, for instance, was imported."

What's in a curry? Well, it depends on what you're cooking. There's a different curry paste for meat as well as for fish, says Chew.

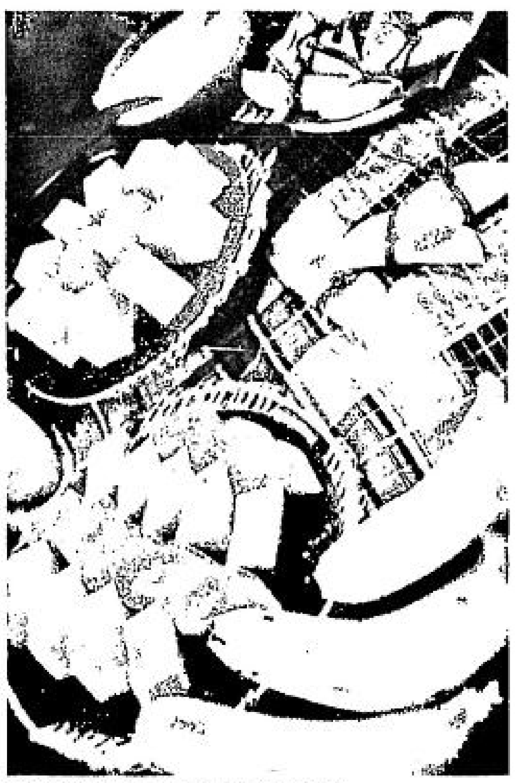
He and Leow, a senior sous chef, are also particular about their coconut milk, a staple ingredient in countless Malay dishes. If they can help it, they refrain from using the convenient but less flavorful powdered version.

"Nothing beats the fresh flavor derived from natural coconut milk," says Leow, a Malaysian. "A number of the dishes also require last-minute cooking, especially the noodles. Otherwise, they lose their taste and texture."

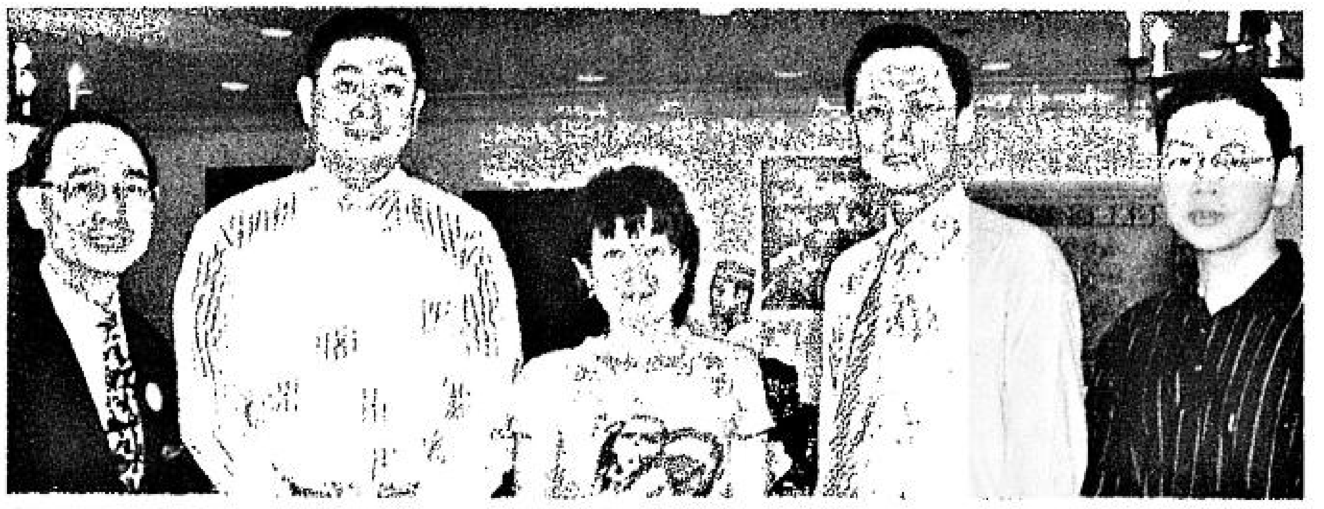
To make room for additional dishes, a number of grilled items are now prepared by the poolside, which will also be the venue of the hotel's *teh tarik* or "pulled tea" exhibition.

A mug of dark tea is mixed with spoonfuls of condensed and evaporated milk. The mixture is then poured into another mug and repeated several times, with the *teh tarik* expert pouring the contents as high and as swiftly as he can to achieve a frothy and milky mixture.

The practice, which is sometimes seen on TV spots promoting Singapore, originated in India, but, like most of the city-state's dishes, has assumed a Singaporean flavor all its own.



NATIVE Singaporean desserts



GUESTS and hotel executives on opening day: Heritage Hotel Manila GM Peter Kan, Singapore Tourism Board area director (Philippines and Brunei) Rocson Chang, Singaporean Ambassador to the Philippines Lim Kheng Hua, Grand Plaza Hotel Corporation GM Yam Kit Sung and Singapore Airlines GM Eugene Lee RUDY ESPERAS

Chinese resto opens outlet in Glorietta

DINING OUT

TANG CITY Crab and Shanghai Restaurant Glorietta 3 recently held its grand opening celebration. The restaurant serves King Crabs, Flower Crabs, Male and Female Crabs cooked in 33 different ways. It also has live seafood, roasting and starters specialties like Shanghai Tong Po Pork or Braised Square Pork, Fried or Steam Layered Pao, plus Shanghai dimsum. Tang City also offers Shanghai Breakfast of noodles, toppings, congee and dimsum served from 7 a.m. daily. Tang City is at the G/F of Glorietta 3; Robinsons Place, Ermita; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; SM North Edsa, Q.C.; SM Makati; Market Place-Times Plaza, UN Ave, Mla.; Valero II Car Park, Salcedo Village, Makati; Ferros Bldg., 176 Salcedo St.; Legaspi Village, Makati; Foodparks, Enterprise Center, Makati; Food Odyssey, LKG Tower, Makati.

CITY GARDEN'S Toriyaki, marinated chicken chunks in soya mirin sauce served in skewers

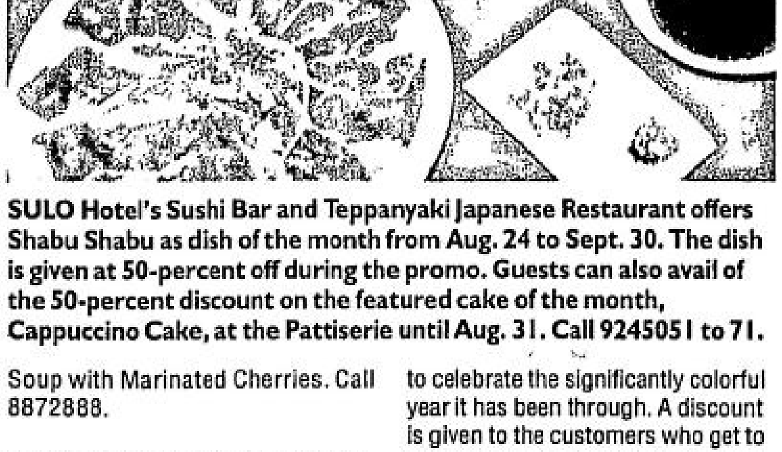
CITY GARDEN Suites presents Bento Box Delight. Choose from Guniko Teppan (Grilled beef tenderloin marinated in sake wine), Tonkatsu (Deep fried breaded porkloin served with special sauce) or Toriyaki (Marinated chicken chunks in soya mirin sauce served in skewer). Each meal is served with mixed tempura, Japanese miso soup, mixed sushi, Japanese rice, and served with free sliced fresh fruits and red iced tea. City Garden Suites is located at 1158 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. Call 5361451.

KITARO Japanese Sushi presents High on 5 treats until Sept. 20. Give Me Five offers free Tamago Sushi for every group of five friends with a collective order of P400 or more. In Bento Budget Busters and Rice Toppings with Free New Fruity Tea, every order of bento budget busters or rice toppings, get a free 340 ml new fruity tea. With Fantastic 55, get Kani Sarada Salad, Kani Sashimi or Fried Rice for only P55. With High on 5 Bento, get mixed tempura, California maki, rice, Namuro and new fruity tea for only P125. Let's Party offers a mini party tray, new fruity tea and flavored taho for only P375.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen (CPK) introduces California Club Pizza. It's topped with Nueske's applewood smoked bacon, grilled chicken, Mozzarella cheese, tomatoes, lettuce and avocados. CPK is located at Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza and Tomas Morato.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel features Hunter's Fantasy until Aug. 20 at the Rotisserie. The promo offers Liver Mousse with Pistachio Nuts served with Melba Toast, Thinly-sliced Smoked Duck Breast, Double Consomme Soup, Goose Liver Meat Pie, Braised Rabbit Meat Stew, Preserved Duck with Orange Sauce and Essence of Grand Marnier and Haricot Bean Stew. Call 5261212.

THE PENINSULA Manila presents Chocolate Nights Weekend Buffet at The Lobby until Sept. 25, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m.-midnight. Treats include Chocolate Bread and Butter Pudding with White Chocolate Sauce, Chocolate Mud Cake, Bailey's Chocolate Tarts, Chocolate Cherry Almond Cake, Dark and White Chocolate Mousse Crepe, Chocolate Chip Ice Cream with Fudge Topping and Chocolate Soup with Marinated Cherries. Call 8872888.



SULO Hotel's Sushi Bar and Teppanyaki Japanese Restaurant offers Shabu Shabu as dish of the month from Aug. 24 to Sept. 30. The dish is given at 50-percent off during the promo. Guests can also avail of the 50-percent discount on the featured cake of the month, Cappuccino Cake, at the Pattiserie until Aug. 31. Call 9245051 to 71.

FUDGE, the newest coffee shop on the block, marks its first year of great coffee, good food, delightful music and distinctive ambiance on Aug. 14, starting at 6 p.m.

The Fudge also launches a new drink to celebrate the significantly colorful year it has been through. A discount is given to the customers who get to buy the newest drink on the 14th, as well as some other fun surprises in store for all who come. Fudge is at 1204 España Blvd. near P. Noval (beside RCPI and Banco De Oro). Call 4935013 or 0919-4988222.

Make the familiar different with peas, lentils

BEANY Burgers

FOR different but healthy dishes, why not try dry peas and lentils?

Easy Cook Dry Peas and Lentils, exclusively distributed by Ideal Macaroni and Spaghetti Factory Inc., come in three variants: Easy Cook yellow split peas, Easy Cook lentils and Easy Cook green split peas. Also available are Easy Cook great northern beans, Easy Cook pinto beans, and Easy Cook light red kidney beans. Imported from Idaho, United States, the products are available in leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Here are some recipes for children's snacks or *baon*. For more free recipes and inquiries, write Ideal Macaroni and Spaghetti Factory Inc. Marketing Department, 33 Luna 2nd St., San Agustin, Malabon City, or e-mail idealmktg@edsamail.com.ph.

Beany Burgers

1 c boiled Easy Cook Lentils
500 g ground beef
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
½ c minced onions
1 c Australia Harvest Rolled Oats
2 tbsp catsup
¼ c softened butter
1 egg
Salt and pepper to taste
Flour for dredging
A little cooking oil

Combine all ingredients in a glass bowl and gently blend until firm. Chill the mixture a bit in the refrigerator until it is easy to handle. Form into patties and dredge in flour. Lay flat on greased baking sheet and bake at 350°F, or until done. Or you can fry them like burgers.

Peas Lumpia

2 c Easy Cook Split Peas
250 g ground pork
1 tbsp soy sauce
½ chicken cube
½ green onion leaves, chopped
Dash of sugar
Some flour or cornstarch for binding
Salt and pepper to taste
Lumpia or wanton wrappers

Boil peas until tender and drain very thoroughly. Combine all other ingredients in a glass bowl and blend. Chill for about 20 minutes in the refrigerator, then adjust seasonings. Prepare to make *lumpia*. Fill wrapper with mixture (at least 1 tbsp each). Heat oil and deep fry.

Tacos Lentils

1 c boiled Easy Cook Dry Lentils, drained
¼ kg ground beef
salt and pepper to taste
1 c grated cheddar cheese
½ head Baguio lettuce, finely shredded
Taco shells

Salsa:

½ c chopped onions
½ c chopped tomatoes
¼ crushed cilantro leaves
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp tomato sauce
1 tbsp hot sauce

Mash the lentils very well. Season ground beef with salt and pepper. Toast ground beef in a pan until its own oil is released. Cook until ground beef is dry. Drain well.

Prepare the salsa by combining chopped onions and tomatoes, cilantro leaves, lemon juice, tomato sauce and hot sauce.

Take one taco shell and fill ¼ from the bottom with mashed lentils. Top with salsa, then lettuce, then beef and, lastly, cheese.

Peas Macaroni Salad

400 g Ideal Premium Shell Macaroni
2 c soup stock
1 tbsp liquid seasoning
¼ c Easy Cook Dry Green Split Peas
¼ c Easy Cook Dry Yellow Split Peas

Boil peas until firm (do not overcook). Drain very well.

Grilled vegetables: Marinade in: 2 tbsp olive oil, dash of salt and pepper, 1 tbsp sugar, 2 pieces green and red bell pepper (seeds removed and cut into wide pieces), 2 salad tomatoes (sliced across, like for sandwiches). Other vegetables like squash may be added. Grill while basting with marinade. Combine with drained cooked peas in a salad bowl.

Dressing: Mix 3 tbsp vinegar, 1 tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp ground peppercorn, 2 tsp mustard and 1 tsp sugar. Prepare the dressing and toss grilled vegetables and peas in it. Taste and adjust seasonings.

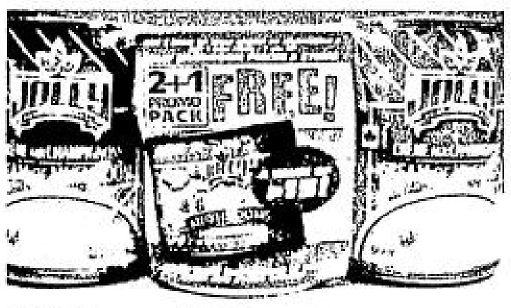
To serve: Spoon over cooked Ideal Premium Shell Macaroni onto a bed of lettuce leaves.

Double treat of mushroom soup

YOU can do a lot with a can of mushroom soup. On top of being a healthy and appetizing prelude to a hearty meal, the steamy broth can also be used as a base for white sauce or creamy gravy, or you can stir cauliflower and broccoli florets into it, top the mixture with grated cheese and bake it.

To welcome Filipinos to the world of mushroom madness, Jolly, one of the leading brands of convenience foods in the country, offers a double treat at no extra cost. With every purchase of two cans of 10.5 oz Jolly Cream of Mushroom Soup, customers will get a free 198 g of Jolly Mushroom Pieces and Stems.

Jolly allows you to enjoy more mushroom in your soup and in other dishes without having to spend more. You can use the soup (with real bits of succulent mushrooms) as a base for your pasta sauce; and the sliced button mushrooms especially imported from China as pasta garnish. Enjoy the soup with a salad or a slice of bread, or as a high-protein, low-calorie snack to warm you to the core on rainy days. Just add water and simmer the broth, and voila! you've got yourself a steamy broth chockfull of flavors and meaty goodness.



JOLLY Cream of Mushroom Soup promo pack

Sourced from Canada and one of the best-known brands of Fly Ace Corp., importer and distributor of high-grade products from Europe, US, and other parts of the world, Jolly Cream of Mushroom Soup comes in a convenient, ready-to-cook package that locks in the succulence of these earthy delights.

Jolly products are available at leading supermarkets nationwide.

bench/
To say this show will sizzle would be an
UNDERSTATEMENT
The Bench Underwear & Denim Fashion Show
with the Japanese (Tokyo Dageki-Dan) Taiko Drummers and the French Les Farfadals Acrobats.
August 18. 7PM. Araneta Coliseum
www.bench.com.ph

Healthy food made more exciting

THE NEXT Peninsula Academy Cooking Class will focus on spa cuisine to try to dispel the notion that it is boring and bland.

Executive chef Gerhard Doll of Peninsula Manila will conduct the class, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Aug. 21.

Chef Doll will teach low-fat dishes with bold and enticing flavors made with fresh seasonal ingredients. Healthy eating means getting all the daily essential vitamins, minerals and other nutrients. The chef says it requires a certain technique to provide all these in a meal without having to eat an enormous amount of food. A spa menu cannot "waste calories," he adds. Only foods that are efficient in delivering the essential nutrients can be included.

For the Spa Cuisine cooking class, Chef Doll will demonstrate in simple and easy-to-follow steps how to prepare a three-course menu featuring sesame-crusted seared *ahi* tuna and *soba* noodle salad in organic soy glaze (appetizer); seabass steamed with lemon, ginger and coriander, beet roots and baby beans and vegetable vinaigrette (main course); and chilled lemon myrtle and mint soup, with frozen green tea yogurt (dessert).

The German-born chef Doll heads The Peninsula Manila's culinary team. Following his training, he started as an apprentice in several Guide Michelin-starred restaurants in Europe before landing the position of sous chef at The Oriental Hotel, Bangkok.

He then became the opening executive sous chef at The Peninsula Bangkok before becoming executive chef at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Hong Kong.

In 2001, he became The Peninsula Chicago's opening executive chef. He returned to Asia to accept the job as executive chef of The Peninsula Manila.

Cost per cooking class student is P2,750++. It covers The Peninsula Academy Cooking Class, three-course lunch in Old Manila, The Peninsula Academy apron and a special gift from The Peninsula Manila.

Call 887-2888 locals 2240 (Christian Westbeld) or 2205 (Restaurant Reservations).

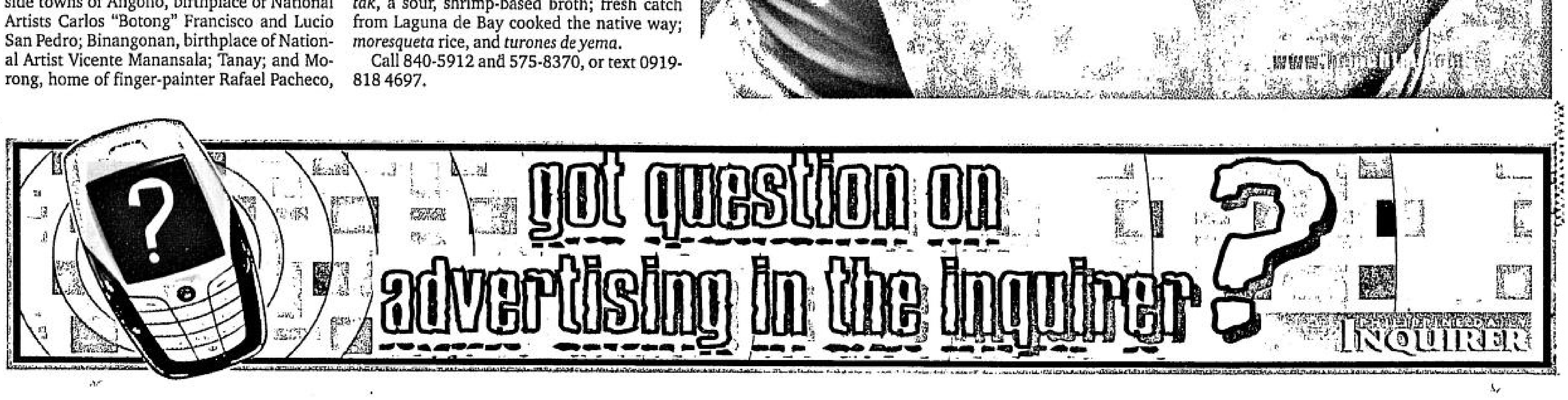
Rizal arts and food tour

INSCRIBE Tours is organizing a food and arts tour of Rizal on Aug. 14.

The tour will bring participants to the lakeside towns of Angono, birthplace of National Artists Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Lucio San Pedro; Binangonan, birthplace of National Artist Vicente Manansala; Tanay; and Morong, home of finger-painter Rafael Pacheco, who will demonstrate his skill.

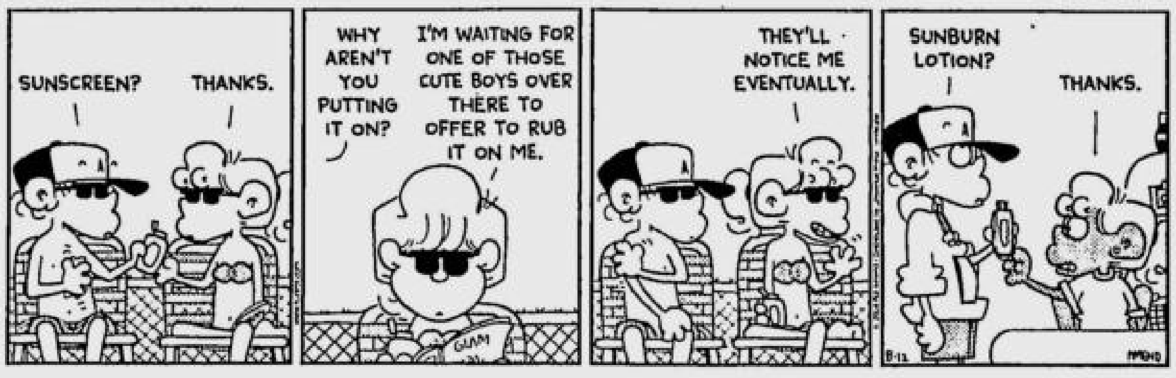
The tour will also showcase Rizal's flavorful yet unheralded cuisine that includes *barutak*, a sour, shrimp-based broth; fresh catch from Laguna de Bay cooked the native way; *moresqueta* rice, and *turones de yema*.

Call 840-5912 and 575-8370, or text 0919-818 4697.



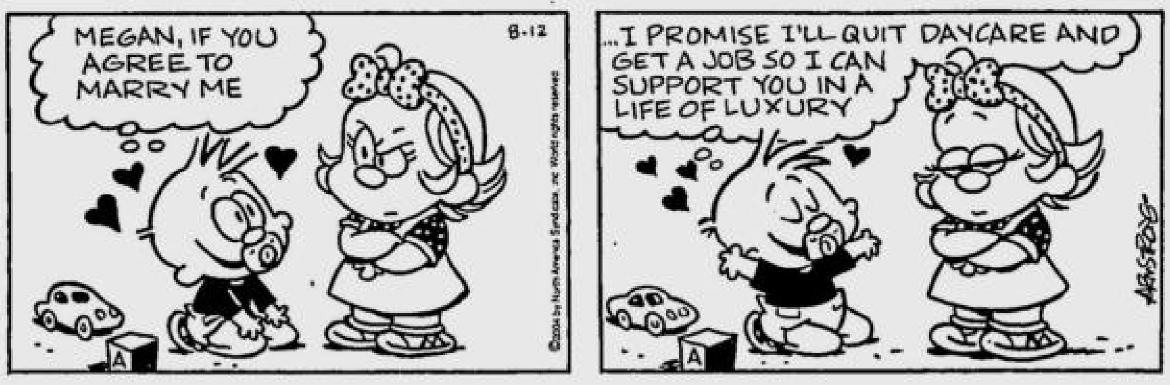
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SUNSCREEN?
THANKS.
WHY AREN'T YOU PUTTING IT ON?
I'M WAITING FOR ONE OF THOSE CUTE BOYS OVER THERE TO OFFER TO RUB IT ON ME.
GLAM
THEY'LL NOTICE ME EVENTUALLY.
SUNBURN LOTION?
THANKS.
8-12

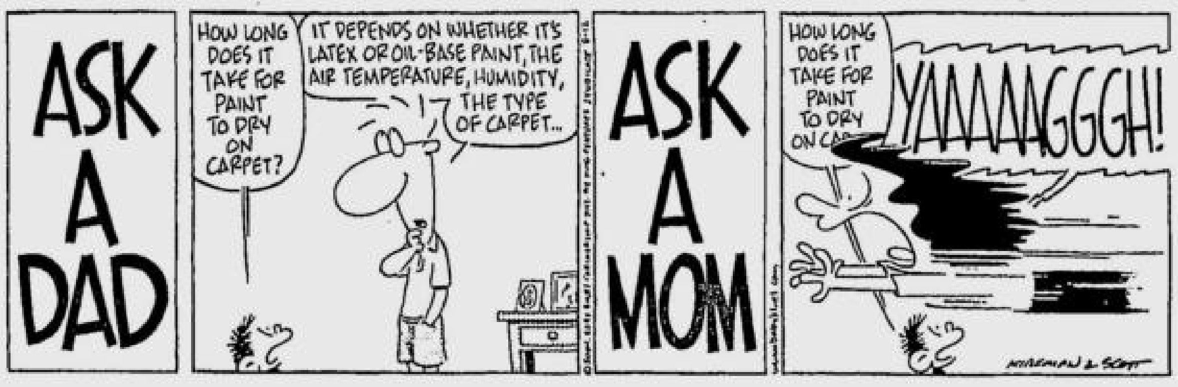
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MEGAN, IF YOU AGREE TO MARRY ME
8-12
...I PROMISE I'LL QUIT DAYCARE AND GET A JOB SO I CAN SUPPORT YOU IN A LIFE OF LUXURY
A
ARMSTRONG

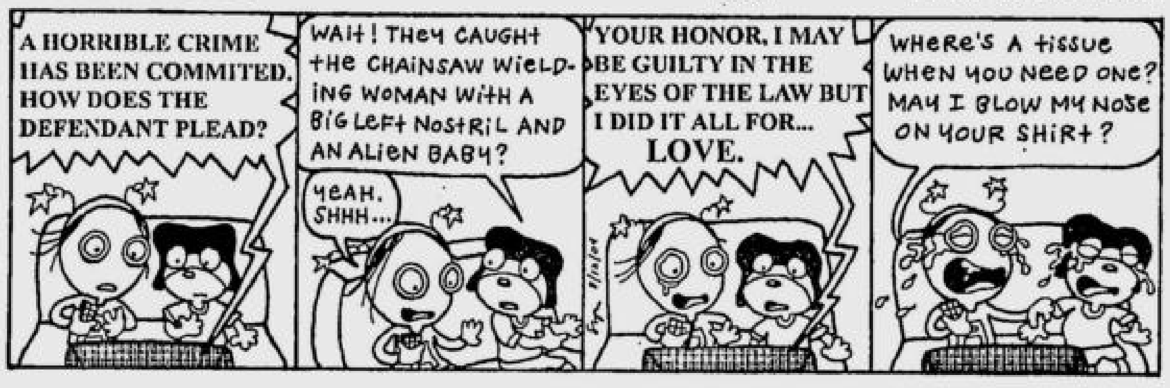
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A DAD
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR PAINT TO DRY ON CARPET?
IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER IT'S LATEX OR OIL-BASE PAINT, THE AIR TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY, THE TYPE OF CARPET...
ASK A MOM
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR PAINT TO DRY ON CA
YAAAAAGGGH!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


A HORRIBLE CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITED. HOW DOES THE DEFENDANT PLEAD?
WAIT! THEY CAUGHT THE CHAINSAW WIELDING WOMAN WITH A BIG LEFT NOSTRIL AND AN ALIEN BABY?
YEAH. SHHH...
YOUR HONOR, I MAY BE GUILTY IN THE EYES OF THE LAW BUT I DID IT ALL FOR... LOVE.
WHERE'S A TISSUE WHEN YOU NEED ONE? MAY I BLOW MY NOSE ON YOUR SHIRT?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're theatrical and quick to see the broad picture; however, you're also quite serious. You are a loyal friend and very faithful to loved ones. You like to preserve tradition and knowledge for future generations. You're always busy. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle. **Birthdate of:** Pete Sampras, tennis player; Dominique Swain, actress; George Hamilton, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to examine how much your old habits or past conditioning still controls your life. You can learn something.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Female relatives (especially sisters) can play a role in your life today. Your conversations with others seem to be more emotional than usual.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're in the mood to shop today, and it's a good day to do this. However, this is a poor time to buy cars or any kind of ground transportation. (Wait until after Sept. 2 to do that.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon, Venus and Saturn are in your sign today. You feel warm and friendly toward others. You're in the mood to shop for loved ones and for yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You need a little time just for yourself today. A few moments of peace and quiet will restore your soul and will help to calm the chatter in your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations with a friend are important today. Why not talk about some of your future goals? Others are helpful to you, and their feedback will clear up some questions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You should know that whatever you do today might tend to be a bit public. For various reasons, people notice you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're hungry to do something different today. Therefore, take a break from your daily routine if you can. Change the route that you come home from work, and visit different stores.

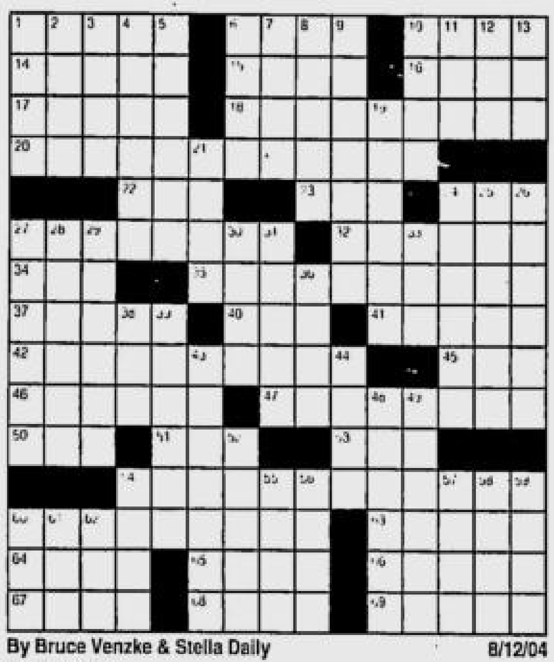
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might feel jealous of somebody because you envy what this person owns or has. It's easy to think that other people have their act together. But that's just appearances. We all have our challenges.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today's Moon opposes your sign. This means you have to turn your attention to your most personal relationships and friendships. Conflict with others will be emotional.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to focus on home crafts, hobbies and shopping for personal hygiene items and all those things that you get in a drugstore. Stock up on missing items.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Flirtations, parties, sports and fun times are favored today. You might also have a strong desire to take care of someone younger, because you feel unusually protective.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
8/12/04

ACROSS
1 Sluggish
6 Off-road rides
10 Herringlike food fish
14 Birchbark vessel
15 Londoner
16 Wan
17 Bulbous vegetable
18 Umpire's pocketful
20 "Kojak" star
22 Debtor's chit
23 Abbr. on many cameras
24 Militarize
27 Pungency
32 "Respect"-ful name?
34 Fury
35 "The King and I" star
37 Pickle picks
40 Actress Charlotte
41 Messy eaters
42 Chef's voice on "South Park"
45 __-la-la!
46 Friend of Pooh
47 Ceylon today
50 Former draft org.
51 Significant period
53 Motown
54 Ex-governor of Minnesota
60 City bombed 8/6/45
63 Frasier Crane's brother
64 Singles
65 Zatopek or Jannings
66 Hoover competitor
67 Gawk
68 Folk wisdom
69 Calls for

DOWN
1 Dundee fellow
2 Kent's love
3 Indigo dye
4 Settle down!
5 School in Gambier, OH
6 "S.O.S." group
7 Detective McGee, for short
8 Travel stamps
9 Astral
10 Hot tubs
11 Actor Linden
12 __ of the above
13 __ Plaines, IL
19 Bonds and Levinson
21 Chop __
24 When clocks strike twelve
25 African antelope
26 Actress Mason
27 Neatens
28 Gets up
29 Passes on
30 Koran chapter
31 Bumps off
33 Pic blowup
36 Tavern staple
38 Buddhist Thai
39 Rock debris
43 Melville biographer Parker
44 Lateral part
48 John of the Beatles
49 Apparel
52 Honda's robot
54 Feliciano or Canseco
55 Abu Dhabi ruler
56 Crooner Jerry
57 Title role for Peter Fonda
58 Mailroom stamp abbr.
59 Pops a question
60 Table tyrant
61 Actress Claire
62 Elected off.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	V	I	D	■	S	L	E	E	T	■	E	W	E	S
L	I	S	A	■	H	E	A	T	H	■	L	O	R	E
L	A	S	T	D	I	T	C	H	E	F	F	O	R	T
■	■	■	A	R	P	■	H	E	R	E	■	■	■	■
A	A	A	■	A	W	E	■	R	E	T	C	H	E	S
I	N	S	■	M	O	M	A	■	S	I	R	E	N	S
M	A	S	C	■	R	A	L	E	■	S	E	R	V	E
■	P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	S	C	H	E	M	E	■
S	E	R	U	M	■	L	A	T	H	■	D	I	L	L
O	S	I	E	R	S	■	S	E	R	F	■	T	O	O
S	T	A	T	I	O	N	■	E	Y	E	■	S	P	Y
■	■	■	■	T	I	E	S	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
T	H	E	M	A	R	S	H	A	L	L	P	L	A	N
H	A	L	O	■	E	T	A	P	E	■	S	O	R	T
E	L	S	A	■	E	S	K	E	R	■	E	T	C	H

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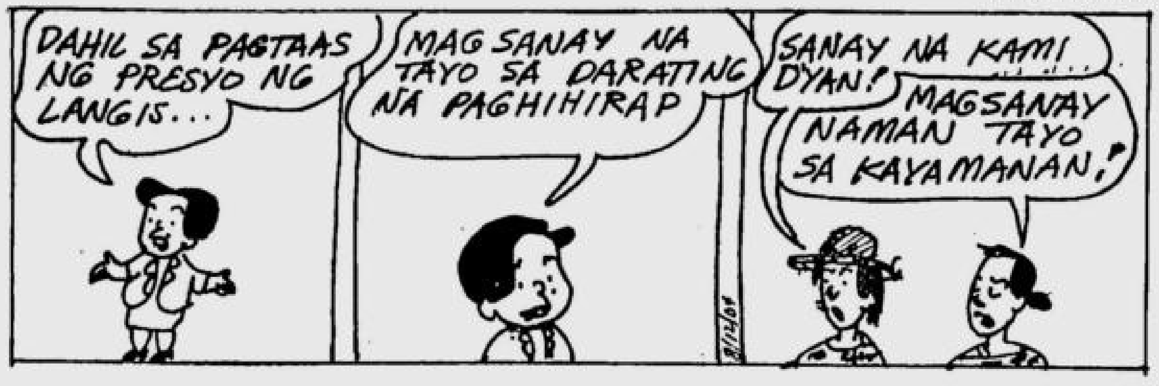
8/12/04

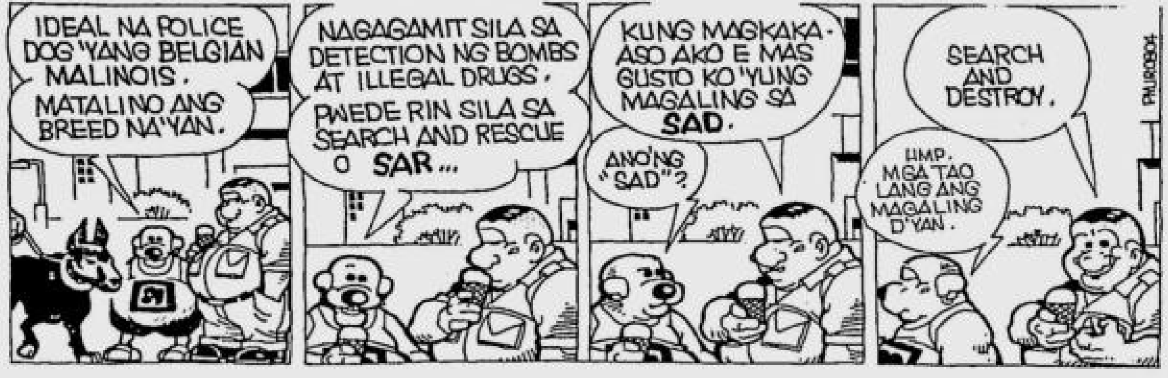
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL SA PAGTAAS NG PRESYO NG LANGIS...
MAG SANAY NA TAYO SA DARATING NA PAGHIHIRAP
SANAY NA KAMI DYAN!
MAGSANAY NAMAN TAYO SA KAYAMANAN!

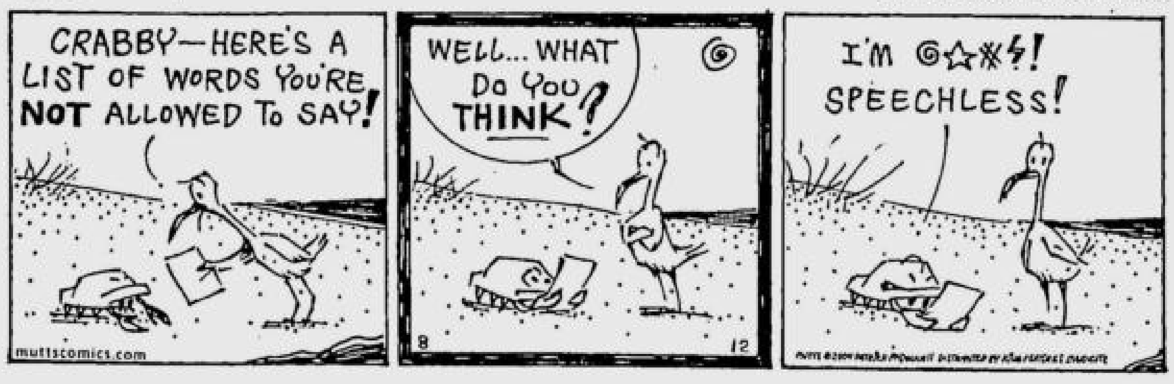
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IDEAL NA POLICE DOG 'YANG BELGIAN MALINOIS.
MATALINO ANG BREED NA'YAN.
NAGAGAMIT SILA SA DETECTION NG BOMBS AT ILLEGAL DRUGS.
PWEDE RIN SILA SA SEARCH AND RESCUE O SAR...
KUNG MAGKAKA-ASO AKO E MAS GUSTO KO 'YUNG MAGALING SA SAD.
ANO'NG "SAD"?
SEARCH AND DESTROY.
HMP. MGA TAO LANG ANG MAGALING D'YAN.

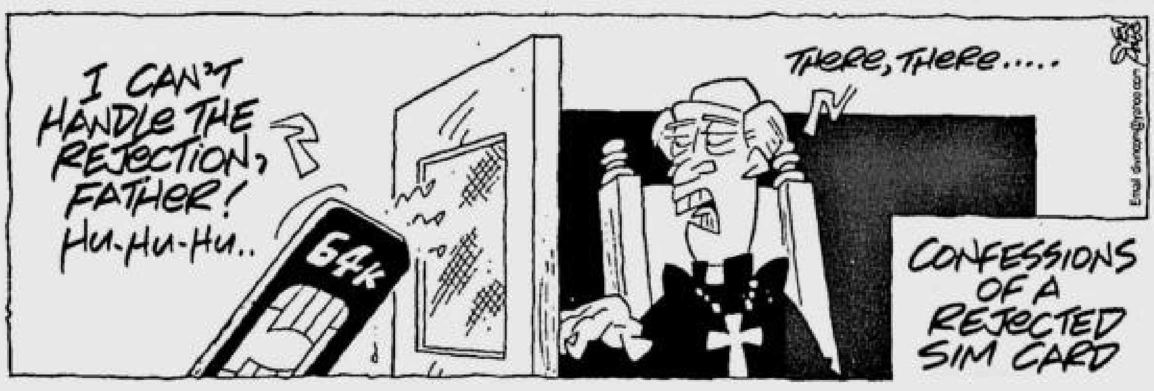
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CRABBY—HERE'S A LIST OF WORDS YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SAY!
WELL... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M @☆*#! SPEECHLESS!
muttscomics.com
8
12

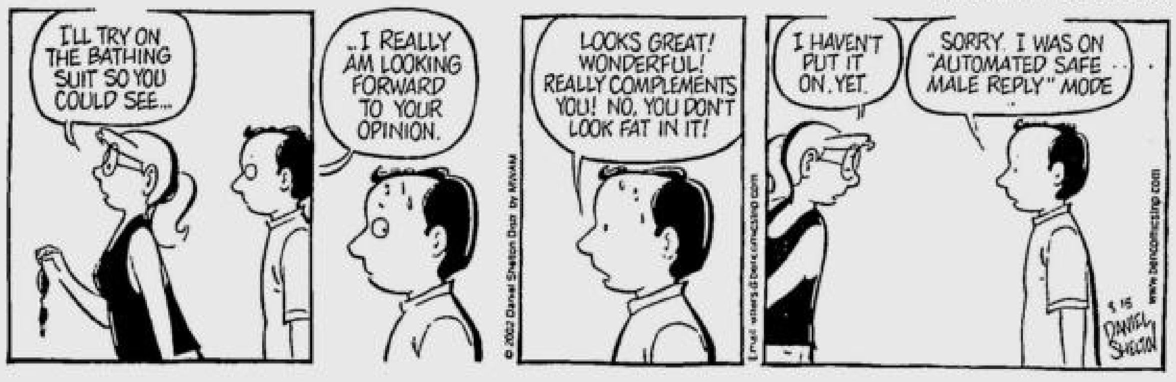
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I CAN'T HANDLE THE REJECTION, FATHER! HU-HU-HU..
64K
THERE, THERE.....
CONFESSIONS OF A REJECTED SIM CARD

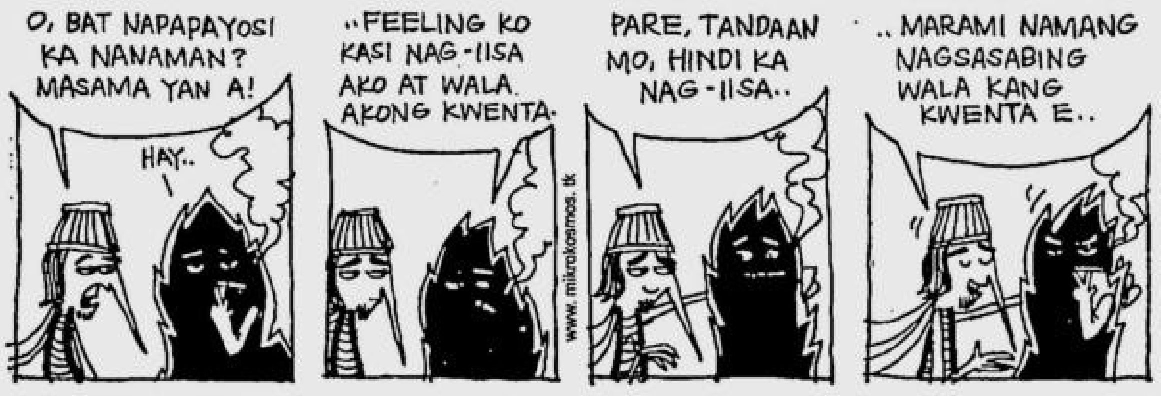
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'LL TRY ON THE BATHING SUIT SO YOU COULD SEE...
..I REALLY AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR OPINION.
LOOKS GREAT! WONDERFUL! REALLY COMPLEMENTS YOU! NO, YOU DON'T LOOK FAT IN IT!
I HAVEN'T PUT IT ON, YET.
SORRY. I WAS ON "AUTOMATED SAFE MALE REPLY" MODE
DANIEL SHELTON

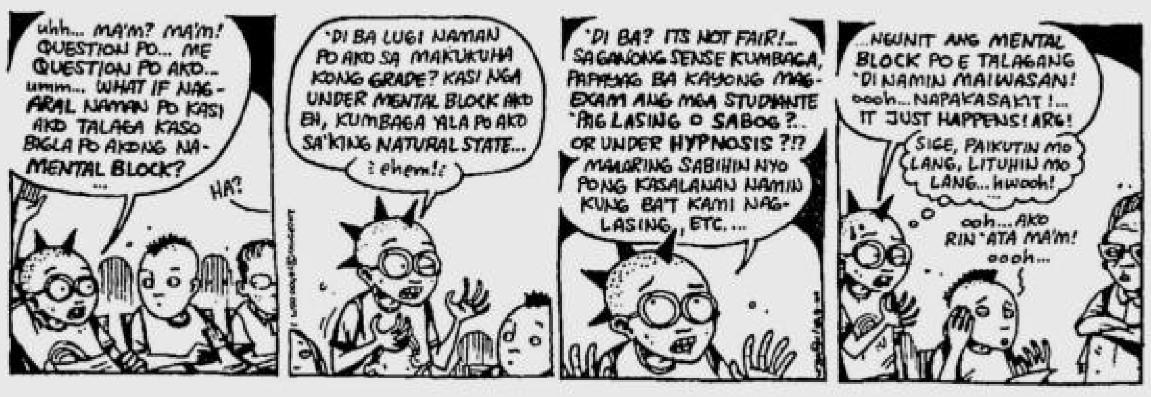
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BAT NAPAPAYOSI KA NANAMAN? MASAMA YAN A!
HAY..
..FEELING KO KASI NAG-IISA AKO AT WALA AKONG KWENTA.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
PARE, TANDAAN MO, HINDI KA NAG-IISA..
.. MARAMI NAMANG NAGSASABING WALA KANG KWENTA E..

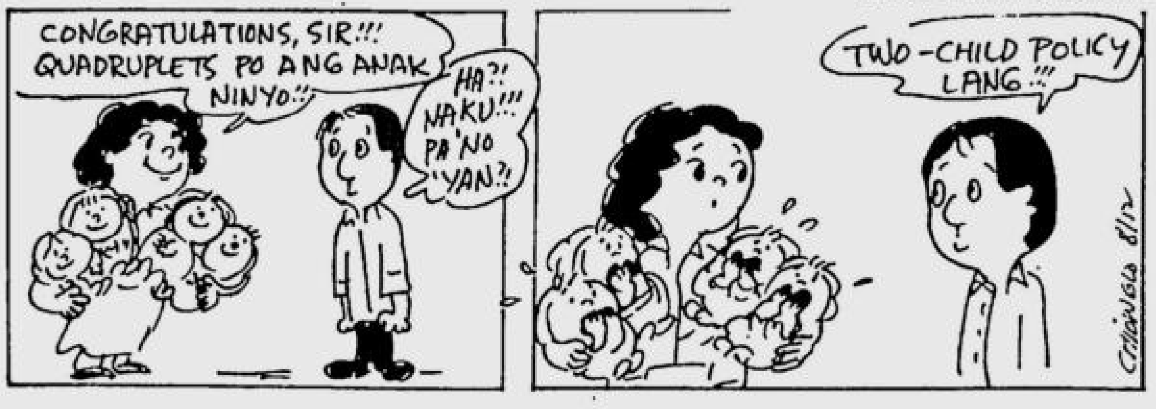
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh... MA'M? MA'M! QUESTION PO... ME QUESTION PO AKO.. umm... WHAT IF NAG-ARAL NAMAN PO KASI AKO TALAGA KASO BIGLA PO AKONG NA-MENTAL BLOCK?
HA?
'DI BA LUGI NAMAN PO AKO SA MAKUKUHA KONG GRADE? KASI NGA UNDER MENTAL BLOCK AKO EH, KUMBAGA WALA PO AKO SA'KING NATURAL STATE...
ehem!
'DI BA? ITS NOT FAIR!.. SAGANONG SENSE KUMBAGA, PAPAYAG BA KAYONG MAG-EXAM ANG MGA STUDYANTE 'PAG LASING O SABOG?.. OR UNDER HYPNOSIS?!? MAAARING SABIHIN NYO PONG KASALANAN NAMIN KUNG BA'T KAMI NAG-LASING, ETC....
...NGUNIT ANG MENTAL BLOCK PO E TALAGANG 'DI NAMIN MAIWASAN! oooh... NAPAKASAKIT!... IT JUST HAPPENS! ARG!
SIGE, PAIKUTIN MO LANG, LITUHIN MO LANG... hwooh!
ooh... AKO RIN 'ATA MA'M! oooh...

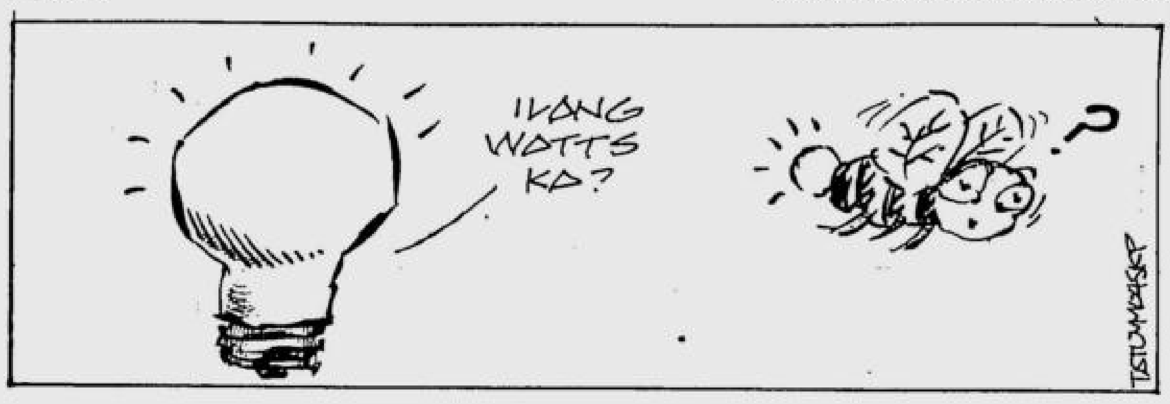
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


CONGRATULATIONS, SIR!!! QUADRUPLETS PO ANG ANAK NINYO!!
HA?! NAKU!!! PA'NO 'YAN?!
TWO-CHILD POLICY LANG!!!
CHIONGLO 8/12

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ILANG WATTS KA?
?
TATUMPAPAP

Tex-Mex classics and delicious stews

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Aug. 13: Tex-Mex Classics 101—Chili con Carne, Taco, Enchilada and Burrito Buffet: meat, seafood, salsas and sauces; Refried Beans, Nachos with Dipping Sauces, Mexican Rice

Aug. 14: All About Foie Gras—Pan-Seared with Greens and Poached Apples, With Figs on Toast, Grilled Honey Chicken with Foie Gras with Fried Rice, Baked Seabass with Foie Gras, Grilled Steak with Mushrooms, French Toast with Fruit Compote

Aug. 16: Delicious Stews 101 (all-new)—One-Dish Complete Meals—Classic Beef, My Favorite Rabo Encindido (Ox Tail Stew), Lamb and Mushroom Stew, Mediterranean Chicken Stew, Lobster, Prawn and Crab Stew, Short Rib Stew; Side Dishes and Rice Pilaf Variations

Aug. 20: Spanish 101—Gazpacho, Fabada Asturiana, Bacalao, Callos, Lengua

Aug. 21: Reggie's Ultimate Chocolate Collection—Chocolate Cakes with Soft Chocolate Centers and Caramel Coulis, Double Chocolate Cake, Triple Chocolate, Praline and Mascarpone Cake, Warm Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Nut Brittle

Aug. 23: Paella Filipina—Taba ng Talangka Paella with Mixed Seafood and Asian Vegetables, Paksiw na Pata Paella with Stewed Banana Blossom and Lakatan Relish, Bistek Tagalog, Paella with Caramelized Shallots in Lemon Soy Dressing, Capsicum Afritada and Saffron Paella, Arroz a la Cubana Paella with Taro-dipped Fried Bananas

Aug. 24: Korean 101—Kalbi-Chim (Korean Beef Rib Stew), Korean Barbecue (pork, beef, chicken, seafood), Kimchi Rice, Chap Chae (Stir Fried Noodles Korean Style), Mixed Vegetables

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, or 0917-8399888.

Is your car safe for your child?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

THE IMPORTANCE of child car safety was emphasized last week by two experts from the Volvo Cars Safety Center based in Sweden. Many participants in the seminar for the local media realized that car safety for children had not been given much thought by our traffic safety enforcers.

We couldn't give an answer when one of the experts asked about the rate of compliance with national standards on child vehicular safety standards. We're not aware of any law that set standards on child car seats. The experts demonstrated how to use specially designed baby carriers, as well as belted seats and booster seats for heavier and older kids.

From what we see on the road, most child passengers ride without using seatbelts. Some of them are even seated or standing at the riskiest side of the car, the passenger side in front. It is also a common sight to see kids moving freely or horsing around inside school service vehicles. The sad part of it is that drivers and traffic enforcers couldn't care less.

Avoiding injury

One of the points raised by the visiting car safety experts—John Fredrik Gronvall and Brigitta Trommler—is that the use of child car seats can tremendously reduce the risk of injury from vehicular accidents. They mentioned that in the United States, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death among children 14 years old and below.

In 2002, a total of 2,542 children died in vehicular accidents, 24 percent of them aged 4 and under. Needless to say, we couldn't get any figures on children in vehicular accidents from the local traffic data base.

We commend the efforts of the Volvo Car Corp. in the Philippines and its official dealer, the Viking Cars, for initiating an information drive on child passenger safety. The management and employees who organized the recent seminar for the media disclosed plans to bring the information campaign to consumer groups and educational institutions.

Tips on child safety

We culled the following safety tips from Volvo's "Safety Manual for Children in Cars."

- The center rear seat is the safest spot in the car for children.
- Don't ever place the baby seat on the front passenger seat if there's an airbag that has not been disabled. Airbags that inflate could be fatal to the child. (Side airbags in Volvo cars, according to the manual, don't pose any risk to babies.)
- Choose a baby seat that is right for the type of your car.
- Seats facing backward are recommended to protect the fragile neck of a child that is not strong enough to withstand the impact of collision and having the head thrown sharply.
- A child should continue using the rearward-facing seats for as long as possible, or until the top of his head gets taller than the child seat.
- The booster cushion/backrest combination provides better protection for smaller children.
- If a kid doesn't want to use the new safety seat, stop and take a break. Take the car seat indoors and let your child use it and get accustomed to it at the home front.
- To strap the diagonal belt, it should go down across the shoulder, near the child's neck. Wearing it too close to the edge of the shoulder is more risky as the child could even be thrown forward over the belt.
- For the same reason, a child must never wear the belt under his arm.

There are many more valuable tips in the safety manual for Filipino car owners. Call Loi Concepcion, corporate communications supervisor of Viking Cars Inc., the official dealer of Volvo in the Philippines, at 8936621 loc. 104 or e-mail loi@volvophils.com

E-mail the author at giron@mailstation.net

Maya Kitchen's cooking courses

IF you're looking for recipes and instructions—whether Italian food, basic baking recipes or a lesson in making your own cookies or desserts—you'll find it at Maya Kitchen.

On Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Italian Sampler class will help you bring the taste and flavors of Italy right into your own kitchen. Learn a host of Italian delights like: Baked Lasagna to Homemade Cannelloni, and even Ravioli to assorted pasta and sauces like Carbonara, Puttanesca, Penne and Pesto Linguini.

At 9 a.m.-1 p.m., satisfy your chocolate cravings the way you like it in Brownies Plus. Find out how easy it is to make yummy Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road, Butterscotch Squares and Food for the Gods.

At 1:30-5 p.m., enjoy the set-of-five Meringue Delight class to learn how to make Sansrival, Sylvannas, Brazo de Mercedes, Pineapple Meringue Cake and Meringue cookies. We've added Yema as a bonus recipe.

Discover a cornucopia of Italian delights in Italian Classics, Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn how to make Minestrone Lombardi (Vegetable Soup with Beans and Pasta), Ceviche (Marinated Seafood), Polenta al Forno con Funghi (Baked Cornmeal with Mushroom), Gnocchi di Zucca con Pomodoro Salsa (Squash Dumpling with Tomato Sauce) and Scaloppini di Maille al Marsala (Scallop of Porkloin).

Impress your family and guests with your own homemade desserts in Cookies and Bars at 1:30-5 p.m. Learn how to prepare Pinwheel Cookies, Chocolate Chip Nibblers, No–Roll Sugar Cookies, Danish Butter and Magic Crinkle. Costing and packaging are also included.

On Aug. 28, 1:30-5 p.m., learn how to make Ensaymada, Mongo Loaf, Rainbow Bread, Banana Bread, Raisin Bread and Pandesal with Filling (Adobo, Spanish Bread) on Pinoy Breads.

For professionals, there are comprehensive cooking courses offered on Aug. 17-20, Tuesday-Friday: Cooking II, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The course will cover review of basic culinary principles; Meal Management; Knowledge of Herbs, Spices and Condiments; Basic Maintenance and Preservation of Food (Proper Receiving, Storage and Preparation); Menu Planning, Kitchen Accounting and Recipe Formulation; Actual Workshop on International Cuisine: ethnic cooking, hors d'ouvre, salads, cooked/cured/prepared foods and quick desserts; and Market Basket Activity.

At 2-5:30 p.m., Baking II (Advanced) offers a session on Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries and bakery products including costing, production batching with actual hands-on.

Attend a lecture-workshop on Cake Decorating (Basic), Aug. 21 and 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. to learn the fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching.

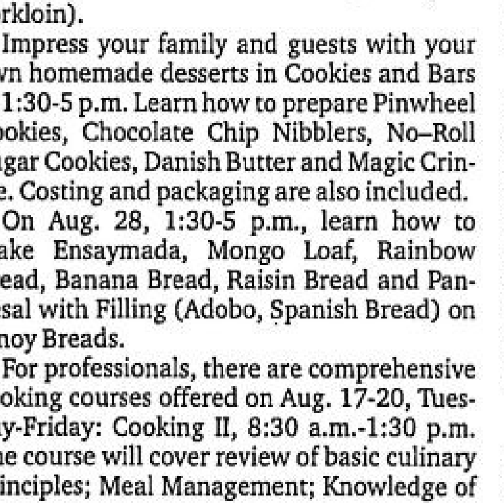
On Aug. 24-27, 8:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Cooking I covers proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; stocks, soups and sauces, and its 1001 applications to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables; common herbs and spices; purchasing; marketing and proper storage; menu planning; simple garnish and plate presentation. There's even an actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer all the way to dessert.

At 2-5:30 p.m., Baking I (Basic) is a must-attend session to discover the basics of baking, techniques in the preparation of pies, quick breads, cakes and more. You even get a free cookbook.

On Aug. 27-28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., learn the Legal and Technical Aspect to get your new catering business started on Catering Seminar. The seminar will also tackle facilities, personnel, menu, including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking and preparation of popular Filipino and International dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Baked Macaroni, Chicken Pastel, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia, Phyllo Chicken Crunchies plus a bonus salad and dessert recipes, with free "Food Service" catering cookbook.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays to Saturdays) at 8/L, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

A century of good cooking



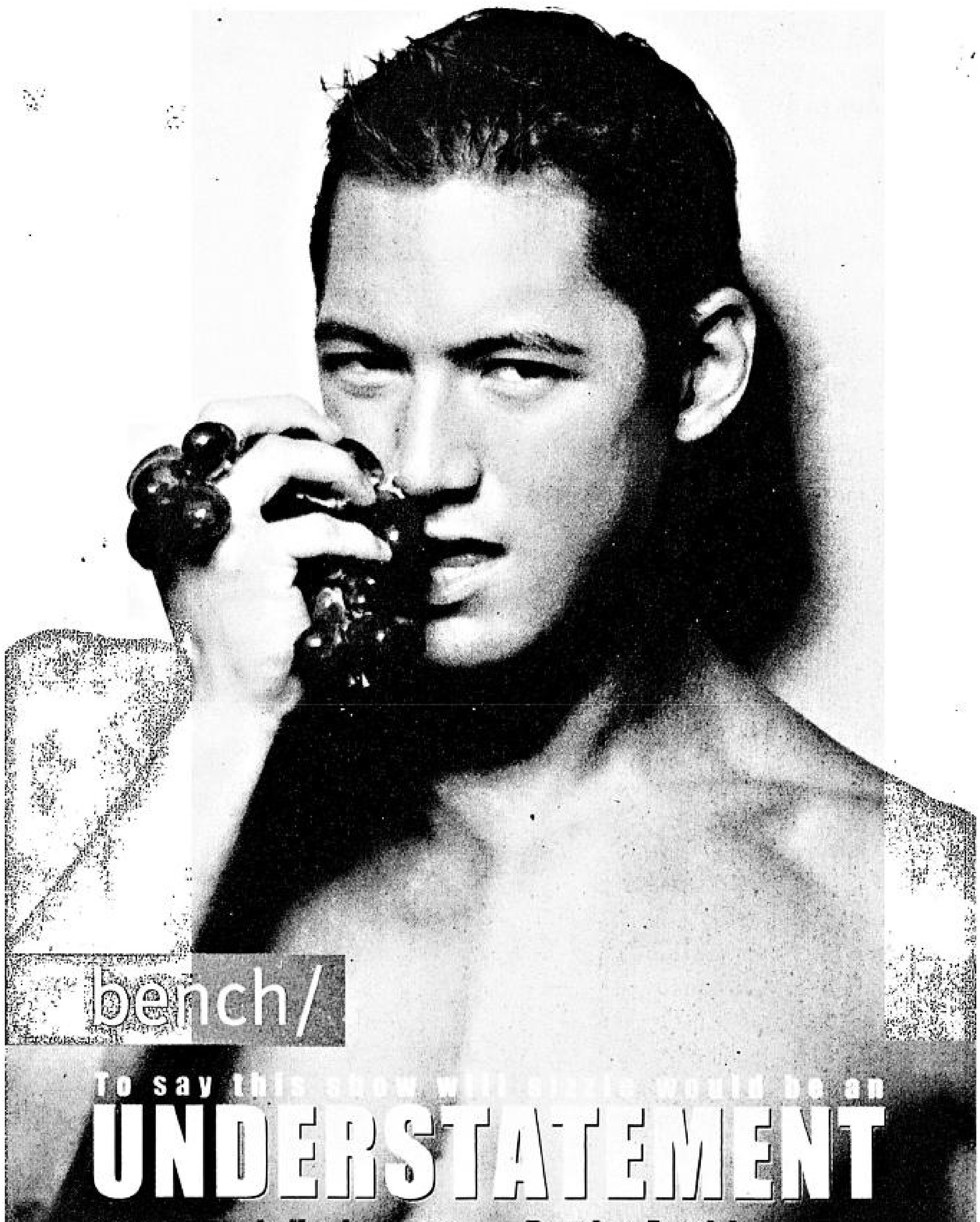
WHETHER it is canola, corn, sunflower, vegetable or a blend of oils you want, you are likely to get a Pure Wesson cooking oil suitable for your needs.

Developed in the 1900s, Pure Wesson Cooking Oils have been a mainstay in many chefs' kitchens for some 100 years now.

Wesson Best Blend's premium quality makes it possible to use the oil repeatedly as it stays clear and does not develop an aftertaste.

Other Wesson oils are suitable for salad dressings and sauces, and for baking.

Wesson cooking oils are cholesterol free. They are highly purified and contain zero grams of harmful trans-fatty acids.



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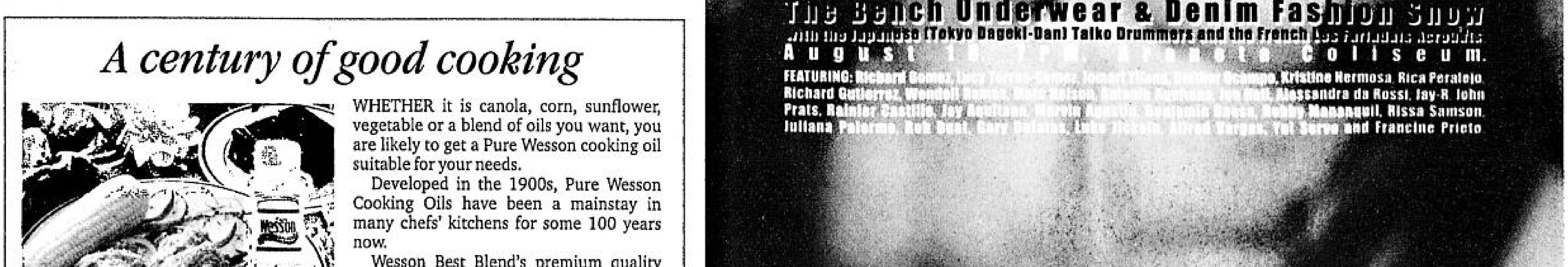

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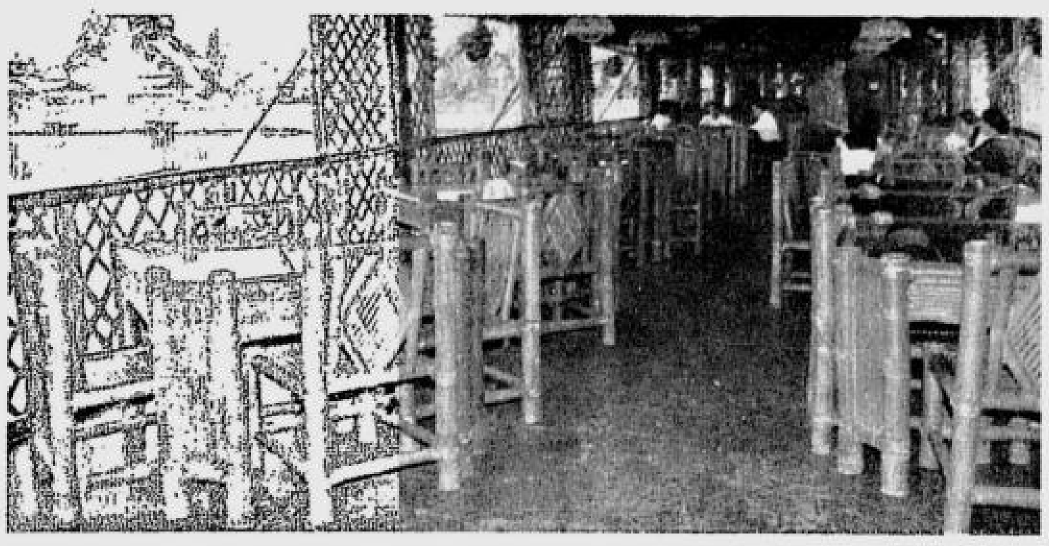
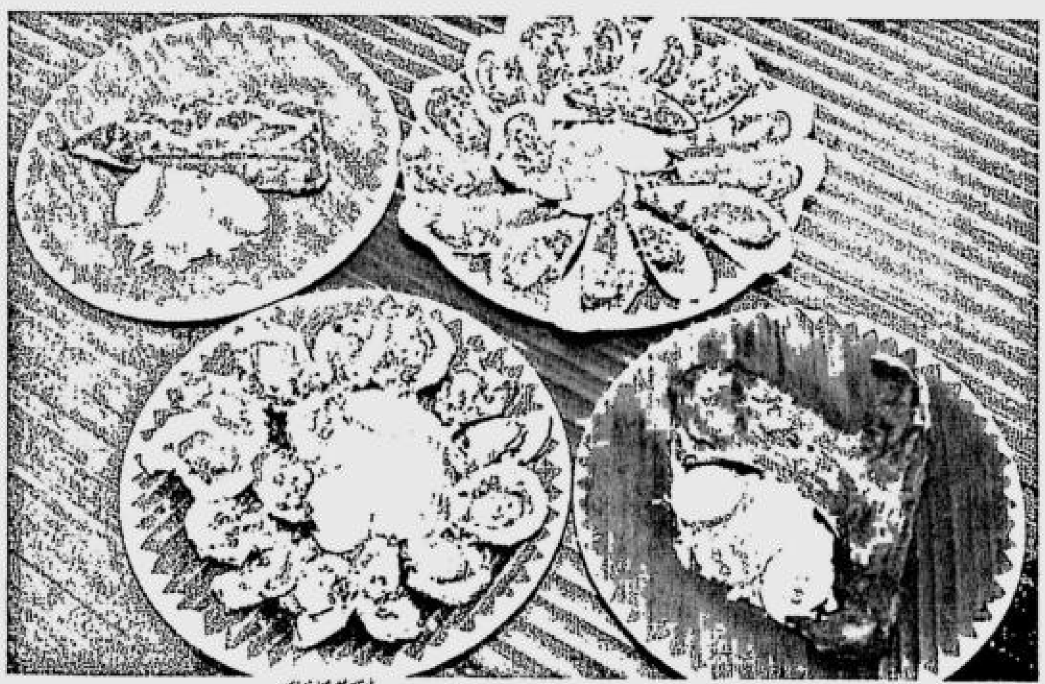
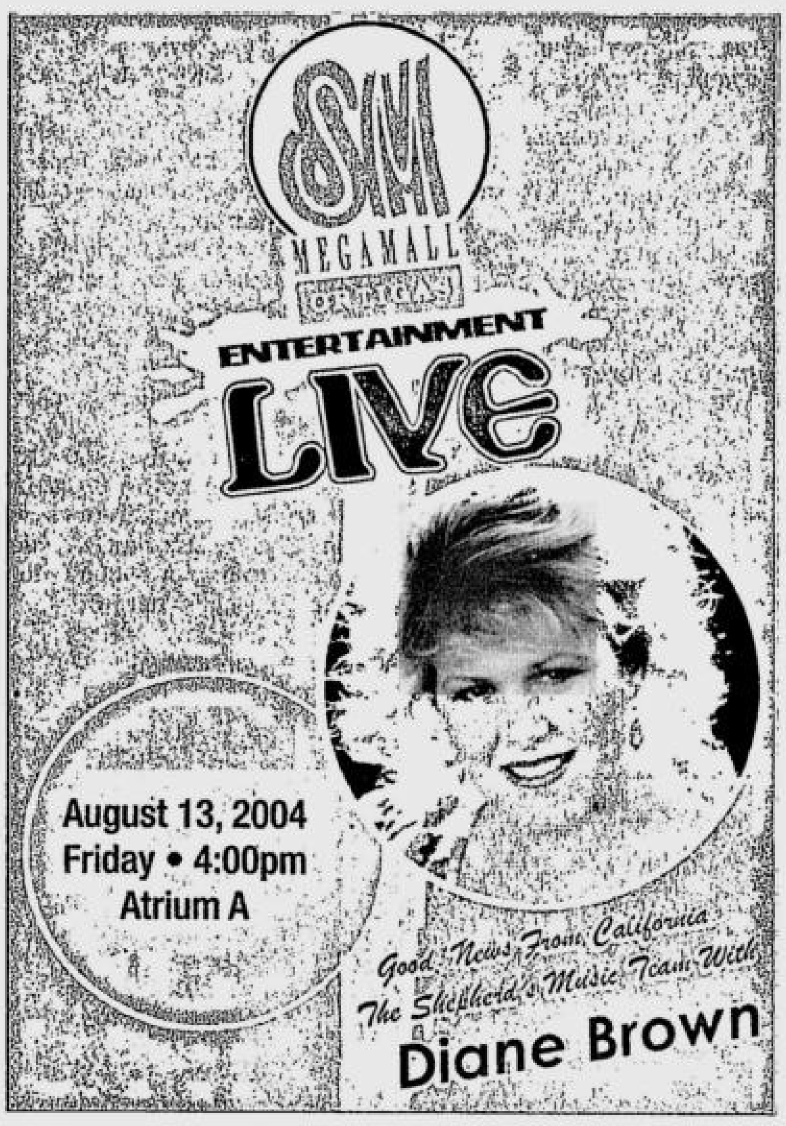




CROWD favorites are baked mussels and oysters and grilled tuna belly and *panga*.

DINING and fishing on stilts (below) add more flavor to the freshest of seafood; at left, bamboo-furnished dining area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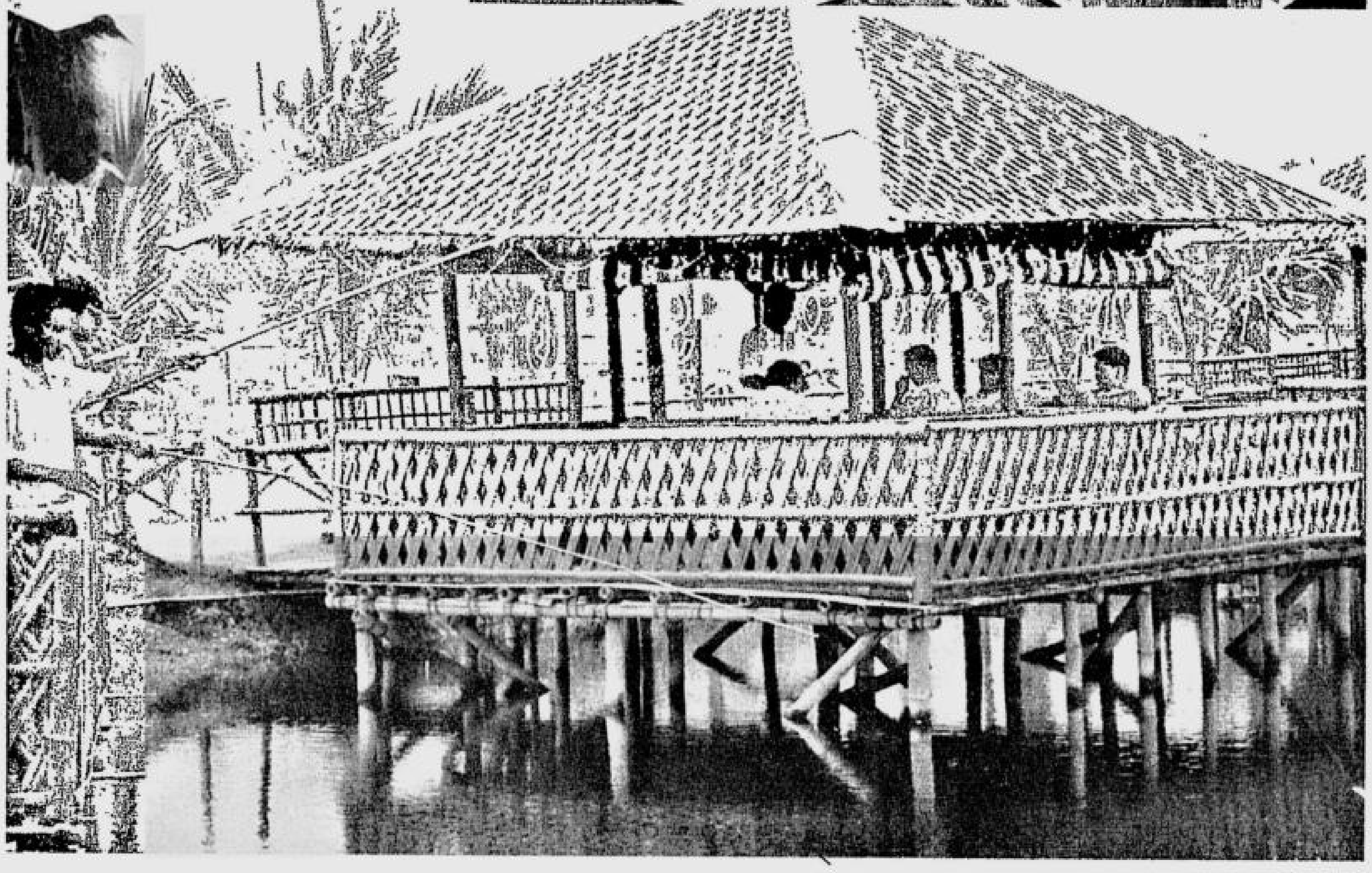

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1541, Series of 2004.

Go fish

Hold a rod and make like Hemingway before dining

By Joven S. Jova
Contributor

SEAFOOD dishes are served with an extra dollop of excitement at a unique specialty restaurant standing on stilts inside fishponds in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

At 888 Fishing Place Bar and Restaurant on Covelandia Road, in the historic barangay of Pulborista, guests are warmly welcomed first, and next asked not what their orders are but if they'd rather catch the fish they want on their plates.

"More often than not," says Laarni Santos, a contractor and one of the three owners of the place, "a guest grabs at the thrill of fishing using the good old hook, line and sinker. And although many prefer their catch cleaned and grilled right away, some save it for home, like some kind of trophy to show off to family and friends."

"It is easy to spot those who are holding a fishing rod for the first time," Santos says. "Their excitement is infectious."

Productive ponds

Three wide fishponds take up much of the 1.4 ha that 888 Fishing Place (tel. 046-4340803) occupies in an area that used to be an American military camp storing arms, cannons and gunpowder. Fishing, long elevated as a sporting activity, can be done from any of the eight cottages or four smaller huts here. Should a cottage be used for the purpose, a fee of P500 is charged. The fee is consumable within four hours.

To ensure that there'll always be more than enough fish to bait any time of day and any day of the year, hundreds of milkfish and *tilapia* are regularly unloaded into the fishpond.

Interestingly, save for the tuna fish, all of Fishing Place's supply of seafood is sourced from Cavite's seven towns and one city lining the shore of Manila Bay.

Santos and her two partners, supermarket owner Miguel "Mike" Malvar and lawyer Mario "Mar" Espiritu Jr., claim with pride that they serve "fresh seafood all the time."

Their suppliers include owners of large fishponds (for shrimps, *bangus* and *tilapia*) in Cavite City and fish vendors of long standing in the coastal towns of Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon and Ternate.

"They tell us they get up at midnight so they can have first crack at the fish just hauled in from the sea and brought to the three large fish terminals in the province," says Malvar.

No hollow boast

"When we claim Fishing Place serves fresh seafood any time of day, it's not a hollow boast," says Espiritu. "Take our oysters and *tahong*. They come from the oyster beds and mussel farms of Bacoor, which is only five minutes away. In fact, it will take our cooks longer to prepare baked oysters and mussels than if we buy them from Bacoor."

Bestsellers among Fishing Place's wide selection of seafood dishes, apart from baked oysters and mussels, are *kinilaw na hipon* and *tanguinge*, grilled *pusit-lumot* (big fat squids) and tuna belly and *panga* (procured from Gen. Santos City) either grilled or *sinigang*.

Guests can either dine and drink at a cottage (which can accommodate a whole family), at the function hall (which can seat up to 100), inside any of the two air-conditioned KTV rooms (good for 10-25 persons), or at the 30-seat pavilion which adjoins an office, the kitchen and bar.

Made of bamboo and *nipa* palms like all structures inside the area, the cottages and the function hall, squatting fishponds and virtually open on all sides, are much preferred. Rectangular in shape, the function hall actually straddles the edges of two fishponds and at the end of which, past a billiard table and a mini bar, those who want to squeeze, in between drinking and eating, a lot of singing or the other way round.

The seafood specialty house in Pulborista (from the Filipino root word *pulbura* or gunpowder) could very well serve as a takeoff point if one wishes to embark on a quick journey through the history of Cavite, whose sons sparked the first in a series of victorious battles against the Spaniards.